The Detroit Chapter of The Albanian American National Organization, Inc. presents

The 75th Jubilee Celebration Convention and 25th Queen Pageant



Ponchartrain Hotel Detroit, Michigan

August 3–6, 2023



ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

Since 1946, the Albanian-American National Organization (AANO) has been perpetuating the Albanian ethnic identity in the United States and Canada. With no religious or political affiliation, the objectives of the AANO are to maintain Albanian traditions and language and to engage in cultural, educational and social activities.

OUR MISSION

- Perpetuate our ethnic identity in America and Canada.
- Provide scholarships to students of Albanian descent.
- Educate people about Albanian history and literature.
- Maintain Albanian traditions.
- Preserve the Albanian language.
- Establish fellowship.
- Develop friendships.
- Instill pride in our roots.

TRUMBETA SHQIPTARE

The Trumbeta Shqiptare is the official AANO publication mailed to all AANO members. Through it, members exchange news and events from chapter to chapter. The Trumbeta also includes ethnic songs, recipes, historical and educational articles regarding language and literature and much more.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Our youth is our future. The education of our youth is of the greatest importance. For this purpose, the AANO Scholarship Fund was founded in 1950 to support the educational pursuits of students of Albanian descent.



Chairperson Message

Mireseardhet!

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome all of you to the 75th Jubilee Convention and queen pageant of the Albanian American National Organization in Detroit, Michigan. Thank you to each and every one of you for what you did to make this event a success. We realize in this day and age that time is precious and attending events like this takes time and financial resources away from other things you do. Some of you have travelled great distances to be here, which took even more time and financial commitment. The Detroit chapter and the National organization appreciate it tremendously. I am thankful to the National board; the Detroit chapter convention committee, as well as the Detroit community as a whole; and especially my family members for your hard work and support on this event. I really hope everyone has been enjoying this rejuvenated great city to its fullest and the many opportunities we have given for everyone to do things outside of the main event. If you joined us, you know the boat cruise between the United States and Canada was spectacular and I am sure the Detroit Tigers excursion on Sunday will not disappoint for a fun time!

For anything to last 75 years is an accomplishment, let alone an organization started in the 1940's by newly arrived immigrants. They started it and gave it the foundation that it needed to let us carry it forward. How many organizations in that day and age, especially started by immigrants, had a constitution and bylaws and regular meetings? They were also smart enough to remove the presence of anything that could possibly divide and have always made it free of politics and religion, although the organization through its members have supported and treasure many religious organizations throughout the years. The way the organization was originally run has continued to this day, and it has just continued to grow. I think I have the unique experience of having served on the national board literally for 30 consecutive years without a break in one capacity or another since Andrew Tanacea who was President came to Detroit and restarted the Detroit chapter and swore me in as board of governor while I was in college and we literally hosted the first convention of the renewed Detroit chapter in 1993, very shortly after we were sworn in! I remember my sister Alexandra was voted in as president, Ferit Nazarko was vice president and Mirjet Zeneli Lumani, Lisa Riza, Aferdita Rakipi, Rapo Nazarko, Bazi Premtaj, Besnik Aliko, Linda

and Nancy Veliu and a few others all held offices. They are pretty much all here today 30 years later, some of them now with children that helped at this year's convention! I have served as national vice president, and was a national president during three different decades, but I've never been prouder of an event than this one. That's because of the longevity of this organization, and the commitment that I saw people put forth to want to perpetuate something that was started for such a good reason, simply to perpetuate Albanian culture and preserve heritage and let Albanian's meet from all over the country, while also helping to educate them. It was such a noble cause, and it continues to this day. The further we get away from where we started the more difficult, because of competing interests and opportunities, but the more important it is to preserve organizations and activities like this one, so that the future generations are exposed to and perpetuate the same most amazing attributes of "Albanianism" -unsurpassed integrity, honor, pride, and hospitality!

My hope for all of you is that you come away from this convention, the way that I always came away from conventions since our aunt took us to our first convention when I was close to kindergarten age in Albany, New York - really happy for the friendships that you rekindled; pleased about the new great people you met; proud of the young people we have helped with scholarships and amazed at some of their accomplishments; excited for next year's event; and exhausted with sore feet from all of the dancing and fun you had!

Please make all the hard work that this event took to come together worth it by enjoying every minute this four day jubilee 75th anniversary has to offer! Enjoy the cultural room; talk to new and old friends; enjoy the great singer and music; network; converse; enjoy the symposium speakers and the valle class; eat; drink; and dance!

Rrofte Shqiperi! Rrofte AANO! Gezuar! Here is to another great 75 years!

Julia L. Black

75th AANO Jubilee Convention Chairperson

Queens Message

Celebrating 75 Years and A Heartfelt Farewell!

I am filled with excitement to join you in celebrating AANO's 75th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering dedication and vision of the countless individuals who have selflessly worked towards empowering our community, while fostering a legacy of excellence. It is an occasion that not only recognizes the rich history and accomplishments of Albanians, but also heralds a future filled with greatness.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the support and guidance that AANO has provided me throughout my time as AANO Queen. As I bid farewell to this chapter of my journey, I find solace in knowing that I will forever carry the lessons, experiences, and cherished memories within my heart. It has been an honor to represent AANO, and I thank you for the opportunity!

I wish you all a fun-filled celebration of our 75th anniversary and a future filled with continued success and inspiring accomplishments!

-Klea Gjonaj, 2019-2023 AANO Queen



National President's Message

Greetings Honorees Members and Guests,

I am incredibly thrilled and honored to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you as we gather here in Detroit, Michigan to commemorate the 75th Jubilee Convention. This is an exceptional milestone for the AANO (Albanian-American National Organization), and I am deeply privileged to serve as the president of this esteemed organization that has brought immense joy and fulfillment to my life. It is with great pride that I reflect on my years of active involvement on the national board, which has allowed me to witness firsthand the incredible growth and impact of the AANO.

This convention holds a special significance, as very few organizations can boast a legacy as enduring as the AANO's remarkable 75 years of existence. Such longevity and success would not have been possible without the unwavering support of each and every one of you, our esteemed members, and the wider Albanian community. Your steadfast dedication has propelled our organization forward, enabling us to flourish in the past and navigate confidently into the future.

On behalf of the entire board, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Detroit Chapter and all the individuals who have poured their time, energy, and resources into making this convention a resounding success. The efforts put forth were not the work of a single individual but a collective endeavor of the entire Albanian Family, united in our mission to organize and host this extraordinary event.

Seventy-five years ago, the visionary founders of the AANO established an organization that would provide a yearly gathering for the Albanian-American community. Their goal was to celebrate and perpetuate our cherished Albanian heritage, ensuring its vibrancy and continuity through future generations assimilating into America. One of the remarkable aspects of the AANO is its non-religious and non-political nature, embracing and celebrating all Albanians residing in America.

The AANO Scholarship Fund holds a central place within our organization and has been instrumental in empowering the next generation of Albanian-American scholars. Since its inception in 1955, the fund has awarded an impressive 400 scholarships. The selection process is arduous, as we receive numerous applications from exceptional students. This year, we are proud to recognize and congratulate ten outstanding individuals who have been granted scholarship awards. The cumulative value of scholarships awarded this year has reached an unprecedented milestone of $20,000. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to

all those who have generously contributed to the scholarship fund, and I urge others to do the same, enabling us to further elevate the academic achievements of Albanian Americans.

I extend my sincere thanks to the National Board, the Board of Governors, and the entire AANO membership for their tireless efforts, unwavering commitment, and unyielding support in pursuit of the goals and ideals of our extraordinary organization. I take this opportunity to encourage each and every one of you to actively engage with your local chapters and become an integral part of the Albanian-American National Organization,

Thank you everyone for your support here tonight and we look forward to your continued support at next year's convention.

Johanna Foundos
National President
Albanian American National Organization

Scholarship Co-Chairpersons' Message

75th Anniversary AANO Convention Scholarship
&
26th Queen Pageant
Christina Foundos and Lea Bitta

As Chairmen of the Scholarship Award Fund and Scholarship Fund Raising, we would like to welcome you to the 75th AANO Convention! We are happy to announce the awarding of **$20,000.00 to 10 deserving students** from a competitive field of applicants. These students were chosen for their excellence in GPA, extra-curricular activities, essay and recommendations which were all amazing**.**

Tonight, we honor:

Ledion Hoti, Naze Islamaj, Saranda Rolett, Ora Kalaj, Isabella Kostallari, Daniel Shkembi, Abraham Haxhi, Deanna Nare, Arian Qoshi, Adea Selmani

We ask all of you here tonight, celebrating the 75th AANO Anniversary of this Organization and the 26th Queen Pageant to pledge that our heritage and culture and the Scholarship Fund will continue on the path of growth in the future providing "Dollars for Scholars".

Since 1955, we have awarded 408 Scholarships amounting to thousands of dollars. We are constantly challenged by the number of applicants and the rising cost of school tuition. By donating to our Scholarship Fund, you can help us to continue to support young Albanians and their bright future. You can make a personal donation, or you can choose to establish a Memorial Scholarship to honor a loved one. A Memorial Scholarship perpetuates your family's roots by donating in their name as the following families have done.

To date, we have the following Memorial Scholarships:

Elnor and Louis Apostol

Eleni and Spiro Bitta

Luan Demirali

Joan D. Foundos

Bill Gounaris

Darren Kokolari

Frances Selfo

Ju falenderojme per pjesmarrjen tuaj ne kete feste and for your generous donations to “Dollars for Scholars”.

Sincerely yours,

Christina Foundos
National Scholarship Application Chairperson
aanoscholarship@gmail.com

Eftalea S. Bitta
National Scholarship Fund Raising Chairperson
ebitta2@gmail.com

Scan this QR code with your phone to donate directly to the scholarship fund

75th Anniversary Celebration of the
Albanian-American National Organization (1946 – 2023)

As we gather at this, the 75th Jubilee Celebration of the Albanian-American National Organization, Inc. (A.A.N.O.), here at the Fort Ponchartrain- a Wyndham Hotel, in Detroit, for an amazing celebration of 77 years of this organization, and the fact that we remain strong, viable and relevant to this day, let us reflect back to the beginning ...

The seeds of the A.A.N.O. we are planted sixty years after the first Albanian, Koli Kristofor, arrived on the shores of the United States of America in 1886.

On Sunday, December 15, 1946, twenty-seven young men and women, coming from nine cities of the United States of America, gathered around in St. Nicholas Church Hall in New York City. They wanted to find out just what the Albanian-American youth most desired in the way of promoting unity among the Albanians of America.

They learned that the people were greatly concerned and interested in the following:(1) To promote good citizenship, good fellowship, social activities, and material benefits; (2) To stimulate cultural and educational relations and to maintain the Albanian traditions; and (3) Plan for greater unity and the betterment of the Albanian people in America. With these objectives, the groundwork was laid, and the A.A.N.O. was formed. The first A.A.N.O. Convention was held on October 18 & 19, 1947 at the Broadwood Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at which time the constitution was adopted (at that time the A.A.N.O. was called the American-Albanian Youth Organization). The first National President was Vincent Theodos of Bridgeport, Connecticut. In that one event, all of a sudden various and diverse Albanian-American groups from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Worcester, and other cities in the United States found themselves physically present at one function - committed to support the A.A.N.O.

The list of cities in which the annual Conventions were held grew: New York, Worcester, Bridgeport, and on and on. At each new Convention site the numbers grew; Albanians local to the Convention attended, participated and engendered their family's commitment to the A.A.N.O. All Albanian-Americans, many with their own distinct religious heritage transposed from the Balkans to America, many with their various political points of view as to Albania and as to America, learned that the A.A.N.O. was the single, unique, Albanian ethnic organization that deemphasized these differences and, instead, emphasized the sameness of a people, the Albanian people.

In 1950, four years after its founding, the A.A.N.O. extended a strong hand of support to the present and future generations of young Albanian-Americans by establishing the A.A.N.O. Scholarship Fund. Its founding principle was simple, yet expressive of this venture's lofty purpose: "Sa më tepër Shqiptar të edukuar jemi ... Sa më tepër Shqiptar jemi ne." The more educated Albanians there are ... The more Albanians we are." Through this part of the A.A.N.O. experience, the dreams of Koli Kristofor and the thousands of Albanian immigrants who followed him have been realized. The scholarship dollars have served to place the young Albanians not in the factories, kitchens, and stockrooms of our struggling forefathers, but rather to have placed them in the halls of academia, law, medicine, science, and government. The first scholarships were awarded in 1955 to Nicholas Pano of Malden, Massachusetts and Dr. James L. Philips of Worcester, Massachusetts. The A.A.N.O. has truly served to not only meet its goal of assisting to educate more Albanians, but it has also served to strengthen America by its commitment to education. We acknowledge its successes at our 77th Convention and heartily anticipate the accomplishments that it will foster for generations to come.

The A.A.N.O., chartered in 1951 in the State of New York, currently is composed of ten chapters: Albany, Boston, Chicago, Clearwater, Dallas, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Worcester and

Washington D.C. At one time, the following chapters were in existence: Dixie, Jamestown, Philadelphia, Rochester, Southbridge, Toronto and Waterbury. The A.A.N.O. is an organization that has had volunteerism its hallmark and its strength. From the National President, the National Officers, the National Board of Governors, Scholarship Fund Chairpersons, the National Queen, the Editor of the news publication, the keeper of the national files, local Chapter Presidents, Officers, and Members, thousands upon thousands of hours of unselfish volunteer effort have been invested in this national movement of ethnic reaction and pride. All have served without compensation, most without recognition, but the fruits of their labors have been the repeated successful Conventions, Basketball Tournaments, Queen Pageants, and local chapter activities such as ski weekends, dude ranch weekends, plays, dinners, dances, bingo events, bake sales, cultural events ... and the list goes on and on. All of us have shared in their successes and at our 77th Convention, we applaud our A.A.N.O. leaders of the past and present and encourage our future A.A.N.O. leaders.

The Annual Convention has been the highlight of the A.A.N.O. year. Few loyal supporters could think of anything else to replace the activities for the first weekend in August. The sites have differed, from the large city hotels of the past with their grand ballrooms to the new city hotels and their contemporary facilities, including resorts such as the site of the 50th Convention - Cape Cod, and then we celebrated our 60th Convention in the capital of our ancestral homeland - Tirana, Albania. The most common Convention complaint by most attendees is simply that the weekend flies by too quickly. Well, the 50th Convention was a 5-day Convention and the 60th Convention was a 4-day celebration, and hundreds extended their visit in Albania. In many respects, all Conventions are alike ... old friends are seen again, new acquaintances are made and friendships are created, and new points of view presented and heard. The Sunday chit-chat at any Convention always centers around where the next Convention will be held. By the time the last piece of baklava has been eaten at the reception following the annual Convention meeting, plans have already been made for the next event, addresses exchanged with new friends, and old friends reassured that "we'll meet again next year."

The A.A.N.O. also sponsors Queen Pageants as part of its social program. The first Queen was crowned in 1949 in Worcester, Massachusetts. C. Gloria (Lambert) Kesler of Worcester, Massachusetts was crowned Queen of Shqiptar (as it was known at that time). Since then, a total of twenty-four young women of Albanian descent have worn the crown of the A.A.N.O. Queen. During their reign, they have been the official hostess of the A.A.N.O., welcoming people at National events and also assisting at events. In addition to true Albanian beauty, all have shared a common trait - and unwavering and proud representation of our Albanian ethnic character.

An A.A.N.O. Basketball Tournament was something to behold. Since the first A.A.N.O. Basketball Tournament held in 1954 in Worcester, Massachusetts, with the Worcester team winning the championship that year, the month of February has been witness to a cavalcade of Albanian sports heroes. lf one was to doubt the competitive and fierce nature of the Albanians of history, one need only attend an annual A.A.N.O. Basketball Tournament game to see that *our* national character lives on. Consistent with the true spirit of athletics, the competitors of the afternoon meet at the evening dinner-dance to become friends. This event provided a means by which the young Albanian-Americans, from different chapters and cities, could meet, compete, and become supporters of the A.A.N.O.

One of the most vital functions of the A.A.N.O. has been the area of its publications. From the early days of the A.AN.O.'s founding up through 1952, the "Shqiptari" was a quarterly magazine with interesting and informative content, a quality of writing and wonderful artwork. After a lull, the A.A.N.O. in 1963 began to publish the "Trumpet," which later became the “A.A.N.O. Journal," then reverted back to the "Trumpet," and now it is the "Trumbeta Shqiptare" which continues today as a well-written, informative link between chapters and individuals.

Through it, we all share in the news of the Organization and the accomplishments of our individual members. All in all, today's "Trumbeta Shqiptare," like the A.A.N.O. publications of the past, is like a letter from one's family, in this case on A.A.N.O. "family." The latest A.A.N.O. information can be found on the internet at www.AANO.org.

The '90's brought us into a new era - the "doors" of Albania opened, and we saw a new influx of arrivals from Albania who are attending and participating in the A.A.N.O. activities. Many have

entered colleges and universities, and the A.A.N.O. is assisting them in their endeavors to succeed by awarding them specific scholarships.

The A.A.N.O. is honored to be the first Albanian-American organization in the United States and Canada to go to its ancestral homeland, Albania.

Over four hundred conventioneers traveled from every major city in the United States and Canada to celebrate the A.A.N.O.'s 60th anniversary, to trace the footsteps of our Illyrian ancestors, to visit historical Krujë (the home of Skënderbeu, our National Hero), and to visit our own ancestral city, town, village, or hamlet.

Our 69th Anniversary was celebrated at The Hub – Boston, hosted by the Boston Chapter.

For our 70th Anniversary we again enjoyed the warmth and the fantastic hospitality of people of Tirana. We were honored by the President of Albania, his Excellency, Bujar Nishani, who was our honored guest at the Convention and as well as the representatives of the American Embassy, led by Deputy Chief of Mission David Muniz and the US Federal Prosecutor, working with the US Embassy, Mr. John Junçaj.

Our 71st Anniversary took us to the great city of Dallas, where we met a great Albanian-American community and started our 10th Chapter. The hospitality of the Albanian-American community of Dallas was extraordinary, where we established many great friendships.

Albanians from across the U.S. descended on Washington D.C for the 72nd Annual A.A.N.O. Convention. This was our first return to Washington since 2011. The weekend was arranged with multiple activities for the attendees. The convention was dedicated in the memory to our national hero, Gjergj Kastrioti-Skënderbeu, who died 550 years ago. Of course, being in the nation's capital, we were honored with the presence of the Albanian Ambassador.

Our 73rd Anniversary took us to the great city of Rosemont, Illinois, where we met a great Albanian-American community.. The festivities kicked off Friday night with a reception, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and Albanian music. Saturday evening began with a cocktail hour followed by a formal greeting from our Grupi Arberia dance group as our guests funneled into the ballroom. All dressed up in Albanian costumes, and ranging in age from 6 to young adults, Grupi Arberia performed later that evening demonstrating valles from four distinct regions in Albania, the performance was spectacular.

Our 74th Convention was a particularly happy one, being held after a 2-year hiatus due to COVID. We were all so happy to be back together again, in person, dancing and singing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Now, for the 75th Jubilee Celebration Convention we are in a revitalized Detroit at an incredible 4-day celebration of old friends and new, celebrating our culture and heritage as well as helping a record number of students with their future education.

As an organization, the A.A.N.O. continues to help students preserve their heritage and stand by our mission as when first established in 1946! We hope that our youth continues to preserve these same goals and ideals that were formulated back in 1946, as we proceed further.

May the A.A.N.O. continue to march forward towards its 100th Anniversary Celebration!

We wish you all a memorable visit in Detroit, Michigan!

(Compiled by the A.A.N.O. Worcester Chapter in 2011 and updated by the A.A.N.O. Chicago Chapter in 2019 and 2022 and further updated by the AANO Detroit Chapter, in 2023 with acknowledgment to the AANO's Anniversary publications dated 1971 (25th), 1986 (40th) and 1996 (50th) for excerpts.)

ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

AANO Lifetime Members

Paul Apostol
Feti Batoya
Lea Bitta
Carolyn Boria
Barbara (Kelapire) Filis
Albert Foundos
Jana Foundos
Phillip Foundos
Louise K. George
Mary Hassan
Ruth Karchenes
Georgianne Kasuli
Richard Kasuli
Douglas Kosta Kotti
Arjan Kushta
Irene Lepi
James Liolin
Christina Liolin
Brian Matty
Virginia Phostole
Richard Rafail
Angela Ropi
Robin Ryan
George Taho
Lisa Tasi
Nina Tasi
George Vasil
William Vasil
Valerie Vasil
Yllidi Zyko

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2022 – 2023

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ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

AANO National Queens

2023	?	
2019	Klea Gjonaj	Chicago, IL
2017	Georgya Borova	Chicago, IL
2013	Anxhela Mila	New York, NY
2010	Blerina (Vila) Lumaj	Detroit, MI
2007	Zamira Aliko	Detroit, MI
2004	Gabriella Aquilino	New York, NY
2001	Alexandra Liolin	New York, NY
1998	Lirika Mestani	London, Ontario Canada
1995	Alexandra Ahmet	Toronto, Ontario Canada
1992	Michelle (Pero) Vasil	Worcester, MA
1989	Laura Giantris	Worcester, MA
1986	Alexandra (Bendo) Fiss	Aston, PA
1982	Lisa V. Tasi	Easton, CT
1980	Sandra (Dimitri) Bisceglia	Worcester, MA
1979	Marlene (Koltse) Catanese	Niles, IL
1977	Barbara (Kelapire) Filis	East Williston, NY
1975	Cindy (Nicholas) Marcinkowski	Mt. Prospect, IL
1973	Cynthia (Vange|) Bradbury	Worcester, MA
1969	Cathy (Nicholas) Balinski	Mt. Prospect, IL
1966	Chrys Slider	Stamford, CT
1963	Nancy (Peters) Dhoku	Burlington, MA
1961	Pamela (Stavrou) Dove	Frederick, MD
1957	Barbara (Steffon) Clayton	Manasquan, NJ
1951	Dolores (Vishnja) Obert	Akron, OH
1949	C. Gloria (Lambert) Kesler	Worcester, MA



ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

AANO National Conventions

Year	City, State	Year	City, State
1947	Philadelphia, PA	1975	Albany, NY
1948	New York, NY	1976	Philadelphia, PA
1949	Worcester, MA	1977	Sturbridge, MA (Worcester)
1950	Bridgeport, CT	1978	Boston, MA
1951	Jamestown, NY	1979	Chicago, IL
1952	Philadelphia, PA	1980	Detroit, MI
1953	New York, NY	1981	White Plains, NY (New York)
1954	Boston, MA (Southbridge)	1982	Worcester, MA
1955	Bridgeport, CT	1983	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1956	Hartford, CT (Worcester)	1984	Albany, NY
1957	Rochester, NY	1985	Cherry Hill, NJ (Philadelphia)
1958	Philadelphia, PA	1986	Boston, MA
1959	New York, NY	1987	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1960	Boston, MA	1988	Rye Brook, NY (New York)
1961	Cleveland, OH	1989	Clearwater, FL
1962	Rochester, NY	1990	Cape Cod, MA (Worcester)
1963	Philadelphia, PA	1991	Stamford, CT (Bridgeport)
1964	Chicago, IL	1992	Detroit, MI
1965	Boston, MA	1993	Washington D.C.
1966	New York, NY	1994	Chicago, IL
1967	Washington D.C.	1995	Cambridge, MA (Boston)
1968	Albany, NY	1996	Cape Cod, MA (Worcester)
1969	New Haven, CT (Bridgeport)	1997	Tamiment, PA (Philadelphia)
1970	Hyannis, MA (Worcester)	1998	Chicago, IL
1971	Boston, MA	1999	Rye Brook, NY (Bridgeport)
1972	Chicago, IL	2000	Dearborn, MI (Detroit)
1973	New York, NY	2001	White Plains, NY
1974	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	2002	Boston, MA

Year	City, State
2003	White Plains, NY
2004	Clearwater, FL
2005	Schaumburg, IL (Chicago)
2006	Tirana, Albania (New York, Clearwater)
2007	Las Vegas, NV
2008	Philadelphia, PA
2009	Worcester, MA
2010	Detroit, MI
2011	Washington D.C.
2012	Oak Brook Hills, IL (Chicago)
2013	New York, NY
2014	Naples, FL
2015	Boston, MA
2016	Tirana, Albania
2017	Dallas, TX
2018	Washington, D.C.
2019	Rosemont, IL (Chicago)
2020	Cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
2021	Cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
2022	Philadelphia, PA
2023	Detroit, MI





AANO Basketball Tournaments

Year	Host Chapter	Champions	Year	Host Chapter	Champions
1954	Worcester	Worcester	1978	Bridgeport	Bridgeport
1955	Philadelphia	Worcester	1982	Boston	Bridgeport
1956	Worcester	Worcester	1983	Waterbury	New York
1957	Bridgeport	Worcester	1984	Bridgeport	New York
1958	Boston	Worcester	1985	Worcester	New York
1959	Philadelphia	Worcester	1986	Philadelphia	Bridgeport
1960	Worcester	Worcester	1987	Philadelphia	New York
1961	Worcester	Worcester	1988	Waterbury	Bridgeport
1962	Philadelphia	Worcester	1989	Worcester	Bridgeport
1963	Bridgeport	Southbridge	1990	Boston	New York
1964	Philadelphia	Worcester	1991	Philadelphia/NY	New York
1965	Worcester	Worcester	1992	Waterbury	New York
1966	Bridgeport	Worcester	1993	Worcester	New York
1967	Worcester	Worcester	1995	Bridgeport/NY	Worcester
1968	Philadelphia	Worcester	1996	Detroit	New York
1969	Worcester	Worcester	1997	Boston	New York
1970	(No tournament was held.)		1998	Albany	Detroit
1971	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	1999	Worcester	Detroit
1972	New York	Philadelphia	2000	Boston	Detroit
1973	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	2001	Waterbury	Detroit
1974	Worcester	Worcester	2002	Detroit	New York
1975	Philadelphia/NY	New York	2003	Worcester	New York
1976	Worcester	Worcester	2004	National	Detroit
1977	Boston	New York			

ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

AANO Inc. Memoriam Scholarship Fund

Honoring their life story for years to come:

Luan Demirali
Bill Gounaris
Frances Selfo
Darren Kokolari
Elnor & Louis Apostol
Albert & Joan Foundos
Eleni & Spiro Bitta
Perry Pero

Take advantage and contribute to the AANO Scholarship Memorial Fund to Honor a Loved One, who made a lasting impact on your life and the community. The influence of your scholarship will be immeasurable to the Albanian-American scholarship winners. The legacy of your loved one will continue as students benefit from what you provide to them and your loved one will make a lasting impact on the students' world.

Benefits of the AANO Scholarship Memoriam Fund:

- Aid the academic pursuits of the Albanian-American students
- Keep the memory of lost loved ones alive
- Donations are tax deductible.



ALBANIAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

AANO Scholarship Award Winners
1955 - 2022

Year	Name
1955	Nicholas C. Pano Dr. James L. Philip
1956	Diane G. (Chala) Michael Elene J. Pappas
1957	Dr. Theodore Lambert Dr. James L. Philip
1959	James Michael
1960	Joanne Spiro Pamela (Stavrou) Dove
1961	Mary Naum
1962	Barry D. Stavrou
1963	Pamela Apostol Paul (Doukas) Mahon
1964	Louis r. Pero
1965	Michael Christopher Richard Detskas Carol (Naum) Fotos
1966	Dr. Peter Anas Thomas Christo Michael Christopher Dennis Ginosi
1967	Thomas Christo Pamela (Apostol) Kukla Stephen P. Stefani
1968	John Anas Cheryl (Christo) Hemenway
1969	Catherine (Nicholas) Balinski Beverlee Vissar
1970	Catherine (Nicholas) Balinski Angela Ropi
1971	Robert Arthur Roberta (Christo) Alera
1972	Margarita (Boyatzi) Dempsey Nancy (Pepi) Capstick Kevin Christo
1973	Robert Arthur Diane Boria Diane Jance Carol Laska Carol Nache
1974	Nancy (Pepi) Capstick Patrice Dudula Karen Ann Michael Paul Mina
1975	Stephen Burdumy Dr. Ted Burdumy John Gusha Kathleen Kane Deborah (Kerxhalli) Creedon Dickson Sheh

Year	Name
1976	Dr. Ted Burdumy Keith Costa Dr. Dennis Dimitri Agim Demirali Sandra Dionis Joseph Harris Cynthia Theodos
1977	Stephen Burdumy Dr. Dennis Dimitri Mark Dionis Linda Herzog Vera Nako Dr. Barbara (Kelapire)Filis Valerie Kerxhalli
1978	Elez Biberaj Linda Herzog Vera Nako Wendy Scott Elizabeth (Themel) Horn Diane Wilan
1979	Barbara E. Biagas Linda Herzog Michael Kane Audrey Kerxhalli Laura Michael Vera Nako
1980	Dr. Carol (Arthur) Cola Patrice Dudula Linda Herzog James Robo
1981	Dr. Carol (Arthur) Cola Christopher Costa Robert Hadges Michael Kelapire Kola Mato Laura Michael Nina Tasi Gregory P. Vasil
1982	Donna Ann Bacon Christopher Costa Patrick G. Gallo Robert Hadges Doreen D. Katsis Laura Michael William H. Shomos Ericka Wasso
1983	Paul Costa Susan Joseph Christopher Costa Donna Ann Bacon David Prifti Elizabeth Vrato William J. Harris Gregory P. Vasil Deborah Sedares
1984	Donna Ann Bacon Elizabeth Dove Dr. Barbara (Kelapire) Filis Susan Quamo Deborah Sedares Kendra Tanacea Gregory P. Vasil Elizabeth Vrato
1985	Paul Dindy Dr. Barbara (Kelapire) Filis Michael Norman Steffon Victoria Vissar Elizabeth Vrato
1986	Dhuart Ali Michael Gregory Deborah Sedares Michael Steffon Victoria Vissar
1987	Paulette Mallios Callas Leslie Mallios Contoudis Laura Giantris Michael Gregory Stephen Nowmas Susan Quamo Kendra Tanacea

Year	Name
1988	Christa Anastas Paulette Mallios Callas Leslie Mallios Contoudis Amanda Dove Laura Giantris
1989	Alexandra Bendo Paulette Mallios Callas Leslie Mallios Contoudis Neki Demirali Amanda Dove Kristin Giantris Laura Giantris Michael Gregory Frank Lescas
1990	Laura Giantris Jennifer Gregory David Kukla Stephen Laska Beth Payton Michelle Pero John Sedares Catherine Sotir
1991	Andre Bendo Katherine Dove Mark Doku Lisa Gregory Michael Gregory Paul Laska Frank Lescas John Sedares Catherine Sotir
1992	Sophia Bell Andre Bendo Marc Bendo Sharif Chocol Amy Giantris Richard Haxhi Geraldine Idrizi Paul Laska Frank Lescas Susan Pando Stephanie Pero
1993	Andre Bendo Paige Cokos Katherine Dove Michael Gregory Stephanie Kosta Gregory Makeski Sarah Matto Catherine Sotir Emina Zagonjori
1994	Andre Bendo Jeanne Davidson Nadia Chochol Laura Giantris Geraldine Idrizi Haneme Idrizi Geralinda Kica Susan Pando Stephanie Pero Christian Telly Emina Zagonjori
1995	Paige Cokos Arian Giantris Geraldine Idrizi Adelina Kabashi Stephanie Kosta Emily Liolin Robin Metaj Stephanie Pero Peter Themel Arlinda Shtuni
1996	Brad Bardy Marc Bendo Kuitim Beqiri Paige Cokos Jason Costa Arian Giantris Shpresa Idrizi Stephanie Kosta Medija Muslimi Amanti Xhafaj
1997	Amir Qazim Arifi Brie Cokos Michael Duro Stephanie Kosta Tara Malick Nicole Pappas Michael Rouvina Peter Themel
1998	Brie Cokos Emily Prudente Nicole Pappas Suzanna Agolli Arthur Cane Brad Bardy Krista Tona Anastas Flori Prifti Monika Shehi
2003	Alban Merepeza Alex Ivezaj Allyson Themel Nemi Nick Emini Nicole Nelson Danielle Masek Gjina Junacaj Erinda Begeja Faton Bislimi Petraq Treko

1999 Stephanie Kosta
Brie Cokos
Timothy Vasil
Timothy Pappas
Dina Wieland
Alketa Hysenbegasi
Mentor Mustafa

2000 Tom Elezovic
Stephanie Kosta
John Vukelj
Gerti Tashko
Brie Cokos
Zheni Gjoka

2001 Allyson Themel
Daniel Kristo
Omela Rora
Erinda Begeja
Tana Lala
Nik Gjurashaj
Stephanie Kosta
Alex Ivezaj
Nicole Nelson
Iris Bakllamaj
Lindita Bresa

2002 Jondi Prifti
Omela Rora
Jennifer Rouvina
Raina Filip
Alex Ivezaj
Danielle Masek
Haneme Idrizi

2008 Michele Nelson
Iris Mile
Helena Bala
Anela Zekiri
Noela Leka

2009 Ermal Rapaj
Alba Lika
Rialda Kuc
Elina Katro
Helena Bala

2010 Cveliva Popa
Erblina Koci
Ana Dede
Adam Nicholas
Caroli Caroline Collo

2011 Kimberly Oswald
Beltina Gjeloshi
Linda Camaj

2004 Faton Bislimi
Betim Deva
Jonela Toci
Travis John D'Angelo
Roze Uka
Gjina Junacaj
Laret Rusha
Klementina Sula
Ana Bashi
Nicole Nelson

2005 Andrew Stergio
Michele Nelson
Danielle Masek
Nicole Nelson
Juliana Basko
Blerta Mandro
Erisa Panajoti
Arjon Bala
Margarita Sumbulla
Diana Djurasevic
Anxhela Mile
Bebka Gjoksi
Sebastian Berisha

2006 Lidia Bardhi
Ershela Durresi
Endri Hoxha
Alida Hysenllari
Michele Nelson
Alba Topallaj

2007 Zamira Aliko
Fiori Alite
Aldo Marini
Mirlinda Caton
Blerta Shtino
Fiorela Canaj

2016 Eneida Ziraj
Arianita Krasniqi
Evangelica Louis Purdy
Nancy Gjata
Edi Mosheqaj

2017 Deni Hoxha
Klea Gjonaj
Angela Kristo
Romina Lilollari
Gabriela Vukaj
Lia Idrizi
Gergji Camaj

2018 Albion Zogaj
Albana Gllareva
Kevin Fiss
Vanessa Shehu
Matthew Mrnacaj

2019 Cole Premtaj
Vanessa Shehu

	Livia Marku Xhilda Xhemali		Xhorxha Hoxha Sarah Bunjaku Ardit Breznica
2012	Anxhelo Dhimitri Henris Zaimaj Helena Sumbulla Rebecca Barolli	2020	Kyle Bramson Togay Atmaca Caroline Rumani Vanessa Shehu Eliza Alushi Klea Ahmet
2013	Eliada Zraj Anxhala Mila Kein Bejko Iliria Camaj Iva Hoxa Ferdeza Zekiri	2021	Isabella Kostallari Daniel Shkembi Vanesa Shehu Sonola Burrja David B. Taullahu Joseph Da Silva
2014	Wendi Guraziu Eliada Ziraj Adela Lilollari Atdhetare Ame Elio Daci Ekaterin Gjonaj	2022	Klea Ahmet Drina Agojci Sonola Burraj Isabella Kostallari Shtile Shuaipaj Geri Bakushi
2015	Eneida Ziraj Margarita Sumbulla Diana Djurasevic Anxhela Mile		

Congratulations 2023 AANO Scholarship Recipients

Ledion Hoti
Pristina, Kosovo
Attending Bentley University
Business

Naze Islamaj
Lincolnwood, Illinois
Attending Depaul University
Political Science

Saranda Rolett
Washington DC
Likely attending NYU
Pre-Med

Ora Kalaj
Tuckahoe, NY
Attending Fordham University
Business Administration

Isabella Kostallari
Pearl City, Illinois
Attending Iowa State University
Agricultural Science

Daniel Shkembi
Chicago, Illinois
Attending Purdue University
Computer Engineering

Abraham Haxhi
Hamden, Connecticut
Attending Grinnell College
Biological Science

Deanna Nare
Cudahy, Wisconsin
Attending Marquette University
Pre-Med

Arian Qoshi
Troy, Michigan
Attending Florida Gulf Coast University
Pre-Med

Adea Selmani
Oakville, Connecticut
Attending University of Connecticut - Waterbury Campus
Child Development



75th Jubilee and Annual A.A.N.O Inc. Convention
Committee Members

Chairperson- Julia Black
Co-Treasurers – Rose Black & Tadd Harburn
Convention Secretary – Tadd Harburn
Detroit Chapter President – Alexandra Black

Ad Journal – Alexandra Black Wilson, Amy Gorguze DaSilva, Julia Black, Rapo and Evi Nazarko

Sponsorships – Julia Black, Amy Gorguze DaSilva, Suzana Myftari, and Mark Gjokaj

Cultural Exhibit – Liri Alushi and Julia Black

Extra Tours and Activites – Gayle Orlow;Besnik Aliko; Alexandra Black Wilson, and Julia Black

Table Greeters; Youth Mixer; Hospitality Suite Helpers; Event Coordination and Set up Committee – Edmond Riza, Briana Lumani, Adam Lumani, Adrian Rakipi, Hana Rakipi, Cole Vollrath, Kile Wilson, Allonja Wilson Eliza Alushi, Deja Alushi

Reservations and Seating – Julia Black, Tadd Harburn, Alexandra Black Wilson and Rose Black

Social Media – Alexandra Black Wilson and Briana Lumani

Queen Pageant – Julia Black, Carolyn Chacho, and Lori Veliu

Video Presentation and Photos – Briana Lumani, Julia Black, Carolyn Chacho, Bukuri Adam and Alexandra Black Wilson

Youth coordination at event- Alexandra Black, Bukuri & Fatmir Adam

Hotel and Budget, Printing, and Schedule of Events- Julia Black

Ticket Creation– Edmond Riza, Briana Lumani, and Adam Lumani

Ticket Taking and Door – Fatmir Adam, Fatmir Alushi, and Sami Rakipi

Worker Coordination/Ticket distribution schedule – Mirjet Lumani, Edmond Riza, Bukuri Adam, Albiona Rakipi and entire committee

Valle Class – Dashuri Adam, Melsi Agolli, and Briana Lumani

Symposiusm – Julia Black, Dashuri Adam, Romario Pashollari and Alexandra Black

Band and Music – Julia Black; Briana Lumani; Bukuri Adam; Dashuri Adam; and Alexandra Black Wilson

Flyer – Julia Black; Alexandra Black Wilson; Lonny Wilson; and Tadd Harburn

Kafe dhe Embelsira –Edmond Riza; Lume Riza; Ervo Jonuzi; Adile Veliu

Flyer Mailing – Julia Black; Edmond Riza; Adam Lumani; Cole Vollrath; Allonja Wilson; Kile Wilson; Rapo Nazarko; Tadd Harburn; Jared Harburn; Alexandra Black Wilson; Romario Pashollari; Melsi Agolli; Esti Gajda; Besnik Aliko; Fetije Vollrath; Lume Riza; Elton Pashollari

Other Publicity – Julia Black; Fatmir Adam; Alexandra Black Wilson; Adrian Rakipi; Mario Pashollari; Marko Gojcaj; Amy Gorguze DaSilva; Rose Black and Gayle Orlow

The Committee members thank every one of you for attending and supporting this event. Your enjoyment make all the hard work worth it! This committee is particularly grateful for the support and efforts of your enthusiastic youth team. You are our future – please continue this organization moving forward with the same enthiasm and dedication.

Much appreciation to our wonderful ad book sponsor Primo Print and Xhenis Levack; Bronze sponsors La Strada and Ekrem Bardha for their generosity and support and our gold and silver advertisers.

Special thanks to Fatmir Adam for trying to keep the troops in line; Amy Gorguze for her commitment; Edmond Riza, Briana Lumani, Adam Lumani, Rose Black and Romario Pashollari for always being willing to pitch in and help; and to my husband Tadd Harburn and sister Alexandra Black Wilson for the countless hours and dedication!

Julia Black, Convention chair



Schedule of Events

Thursday, August 3, 2023

Registration
Welcome Boat Cruise on Detroit River with Detroit and Canada views
Level II Rooftop bar following cruise (all ages event)
After hours hospitality at Fort Pontchartrain

Friday, August 4, 2023

A.M. Closed Board Meeting
Queen Pageant interviews
Symposium by Albanians of varying careers
Teen/Twenty Something mixer with Queen
Cultural Room Display
25th AANO Queen Pageant
Dancing and Live Albanian Band (light appetizers)
After hours hospitality

Saturday, August 5, 2023

Ford Rouge Factory Tour
Supergeil Distillery Tour and Explore Detroit
Valle Class
Cultural Room Display
Cocktails hour
75th Anniversary Banquet award presentations
2023 Scholarship Winners presentation
Dinner and Dancing - Albanian Band
Scholarship Fund Raffle and Auction
After hours hospitality

Sunday, August 6, 2023

A.M. Closed Board Meeting
Open General Session and Election of Officers
2024 Convention City Bids
Kafe dhe Embelsira
Baseball game – Detroit Tigers vs. Tampa Bay Rays
Local casino
After hours hospitality

Lifetime Achievement Award 2023



Ekrem Bardha is being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Albanian Organization for 2023 during this celebratory anniversary convention in Detroit. Mr. Bardha has been a very successful businessman over his lifetime and he has started and thrived with a number of different businesses in the United States and in Albania, helping the economic development in that country. He is the former owner of the Albanian American newspaper "Illyria".

Mr. Bardha is the co-founder of the National Albanian American Council (NAAC). He is currently serving as Albania's honorary consul in Michigan. He has also written several books.

Mr. Bardha has also been very active in many social justice issues involving Albanians and human rights. He has testified in Congress about the abuses facing ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia. Mr. Bardha has personally met seven United States Presidents to try to assist with various issues being faced in Albania and Kosovo. In 2018, on the 10th anniversary of the independence of Kosovo, he received the Presidential Jubilee Medal of the Decade of Independence from the President of Kosovo for his contribution to the freedom and independence of Kosovo.

Mr. Bardha has been a long time philanthropist helping numerous causes throughout his lifetime.

For these reasons, Mr. Bardha joins the ranks of our esteemed lifetime achievement recipients and receives this award that the National Albanian Organization is proud to present.

Albanian of the Year Award 2023



Mark P. Gjokaj is the deserving recipient of this year's Albanian American National Organization's Albanian of the Year award who has spent not only this year but also many decades before endeavoring to create avenues to promote the rich traditions of Albanians. He has been a long time leader and creator of organizations and programs and has undertaken advocacy roles over the years appearing on television and radio regarding the furtherance of human rights for Albanians.

Mr. Gjokaj has worked to enhance Albanian culture in many ways. He has done so through Paul's Catholic Church in Rochester by establishing the annual Albanian festival. The festival has grown to be attended by well over 7,000 people annually and has been going 23 consecutive years. He has also promoted and grown the Albanian golf championship to the amazing event that it is today. Mr. Gjokaj has co-founded the world's first Knights of Columbus, the Gjergj Fishta council. He then worked with the Fishta team on earthquake relief in Albania. In the 1990's he started the American Cultural Society. He also worked to promote and distribute the Gjergj Kastrioti documentary.

Mr. Gjokaj has published the periodical magazine "Arbri". He also started "Albanian Fin and Field" to promote outdoor traditions and conservation. He also founded the Albanian American Cultural Society as well as co-founded the world's first Albanian Knights of Columbus.

Mark has also worked with the Michigan Secretary of State, Candace Miller, to coordinate efforts to translate DMV Driver's tests from English to Albanian. He has also lectured at Macomb schools to promote the Albanian culture. He was also a member of the first Albanian team to participate in the "Tough Mudder" run which was chronicled in the Macomb Daily.

For these reasons and many more, the Albanian National Organization is honored to have Mark receive this award of which he is so deserving.

Community Service Award 2023



Shelqim “Jimmy” Lumani is winner of the Albanian American National Organization's Community Service Award for 2023. Mr. Lumani is a self-employed business man who employs many Albanians at his company in Troy, Michigan. He has over one hundred employees over seventy five percent of whom are Albanian. The children of all of his employees received educational assistance. Mr. Lumani has helped so many fellow Albanians, especially students. He is currently working on an exchange training program between the United States and Albania.

Mr. Lumani was instrumental in creating the Lumani Foundation. The Lumani Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 organization that enhances the quality of educational opportunities for our community. Since its inception in 2015, the Lumani Foundation has provided more than $500,000 of support to over 100 students pursuing a bachelor’s degree. Their focus is empowering young adults and helping to ensure they get the help they need to achieve an education. The Lumani Foundation supports students and provide additional resources to create the best educational opportunities available.

Our community benefits greatly from Mr. Lumani’s good work, so much of which goes on behind the scenes as well.

He is a philanthropist that has contributed to many community organizations.

He also has provided financial sponsorship to Albanian’s receiving their F1 student visas to help cover their expenses and has provided employment opportunities.

We, as an organization, are very happy to present this award to Mr. Lumani, of which he is very deserving.

75th Annual A.A.N.O., Inc., Convention
Fort Ponchartrain – A Wyndham Hotel, Detroit, MI
August 3-6, 2023
Saturday, August 5th – Banquet Program

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Cocktails

7:00 p.m. Dinner Program

Anthems
- Star Spangled Banner
- O Canada!
- Hymni i Flamurit

Master of Ceremonies – Julia Black, Convention Chair

Welcome

Introduction of Head Table

Invocation – Baba Eliton Pashaj

Recognition of Past Presidents, Queens, Officers, Basketball alumni & scholarship recipients
Speeches
- National President – Jana Foundos
- National Queen – Klea Gjonaj
- New National Queen- TBA
- Scholarship Award Presentation – Lea Bitta
- Awards Presentation – Julia Black
  - ✓ Lifetime Achievement – Ekrem Bardha
  - ✓ Albanian of the Year – Mark Gjokaj
  - ✓ Community Service – Shelqim "Jimmy" Lumani

Dinner
- **Michigan Salad** with Spring mix, Dried Cherries, Goat Cheese Crumbles, Spiced Pecans, Fresh Apples and Raspberry Vinaigrette
- **Detroit's Bettermade Pretzel Crusted Chicken** with Tomato Mustard Compota, Sea Salt Roasted Redskin Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
- **New York Style Cheesecake** with Whipped Cream and Fresh Macerated Berries or
- **Chocolate Truffle Torte** with Whipped Cream and Berry Coulis

Benediction – Father Fred Kalaj

9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Music and dancing to Ermira Babaliu and her band

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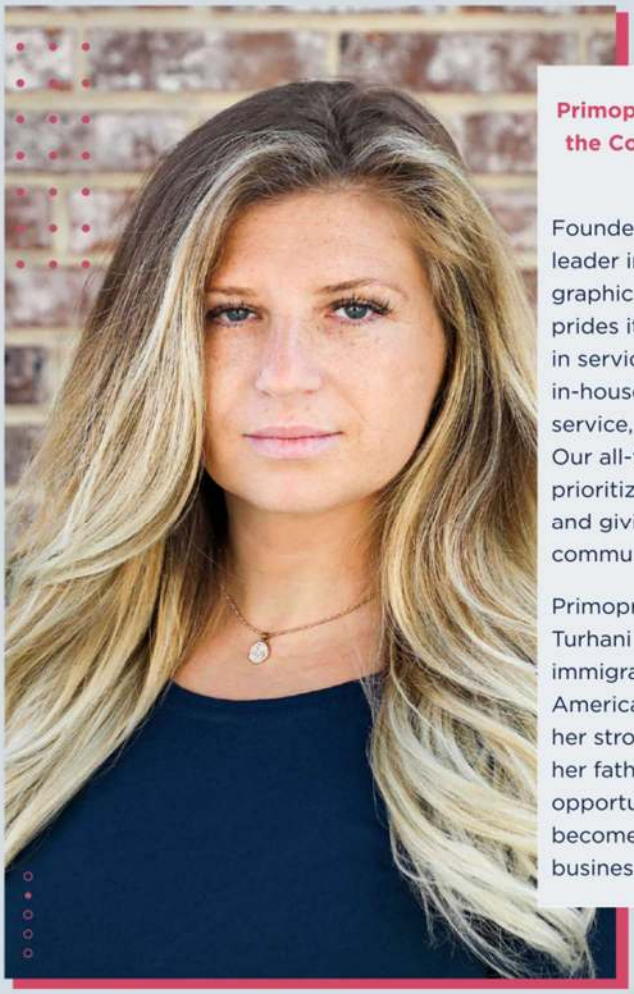

Primoprint is the proud sponsor of the Commemorative Anniversary Journal.

Founded in 2006, Primoprint is a leader in the print and custom graphic design industry. Primoprint prides itself on providing excellence in service through our talented in-house graphic design, customer service, and file processing teams. Our all-female executive team prioritizes empowering employees and giving back to the local community.

Primoprint Founder & CEO Xhenis Turhani Smith is a proud Albanian immigrant who fully embodies the American dream. She has blended her strong work ethic inherited from her father, Kujtim Turhani, and the opportunities she has realized to become a successful businesswoman and employer.

Xhenis arrived in the US in 1995 with her family from Tiranë when she was 14. She settled with her family in Clarkston, MI. Upon arriving, the Turhani's were received by the Negip/Black family, who introduced the family to the Detroit chapter of the AANO. Their support and extended family connections were instrumental in assisting the Turhani family with finding their footing in their new home and setting Xhenis up on a path to success.

Xhenis is proud to sponsor the Commemorative Anniversary Journal and represent the tenacity of Albanian women who arrived before her. She hopes to continue to be a role model for incoming Albanian immigrants and women!

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I perhershem qofte kujtimi i Gjonit. Gjoni jeton ne zemrat tona si nje shembull i vecante i atdhe dashurise dhe i perkushtimit te ceshtjes shqipetare. Zeri i tij kumbues reflektoi simbolin e kultures, artit,dhe tradites shqipetari per me shume se gjysem shekulli ne mergim.

“Best Wishes for a successful 2023 Detroit Convention”

-Lulgjuraj Family

EST 2022

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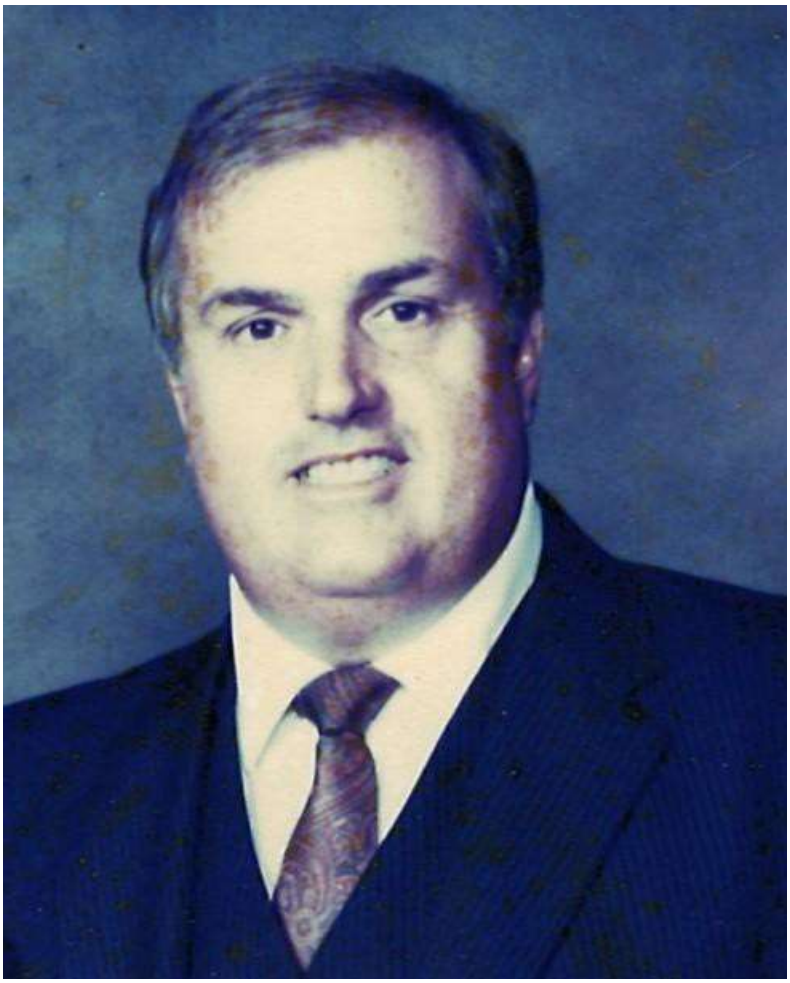
In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Husband, Father, & Grandfather

LOUIS R. PERO
(1945-2020)



Lou was a lifetime member of the AANO, holding many positions in the local Worcester chapter and at the national level, serving as the National President from 1974 to 1977, and awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. He was truly dedicated to the organization to foster and preserve Albanian friendships, culture, and scholarship. May his memory be eternal.

Barbara Pero Auburn, Massachusetts
Steven Pero Holden, Massachusetts
Vasil Family Boston, Massachusetts
Fournier Family Colchester, Vermont

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The Mamushlari Family

Wishes to Welcome

Everyone to

The 75th A.A.N.O. Convention

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Congratulations to the AANO
on their 75th Anniversary!

- **Mynyr Z. Nazifi and Family**
  Chairman, Albanian-American Bektashi Monastery

Welcome to Detroit and enjoy the 75th Jubilee A.A.N.O. Convention!

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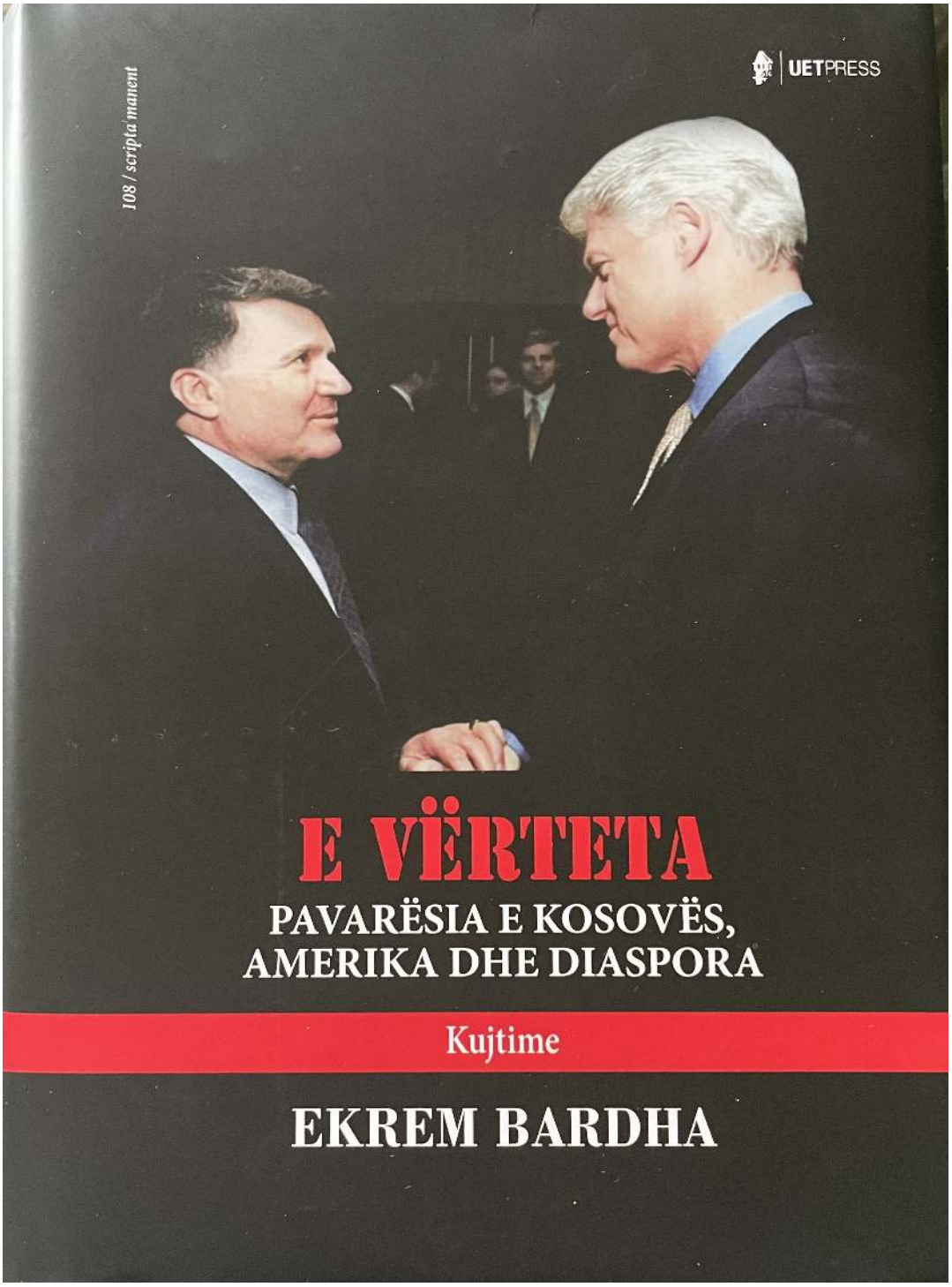
To serve you is a real privilege & pleasure!
- La Strada Team

Congratulations to Mark Gjokaj!



Remember your homeland. Keep traditions of family, patriotism and dignity. My family and I wish you all joy in life.

Ekrem Bardha

In Loving Memory of

ALBERT & JOAN FOUNDOS

Beloved Parents and Grandparents,
Al & Joan were gifts to us all. They were kind and generous friends to many and dedicated and active members of the AANO for over 50 years.



I Perjetshim Kujtimi

Best wishes Detroit, for a Successful 75th AANO Convention!!

Phil, Jana, Matt, Christina, Andrew & Nicholas Foundos
Donna, Jim, Kimberly, Diego, Daniel & Alex Oswald Christine, Tomi, Jamie & Daniela Beno

Long Island, New York 2023



Kile Wilson, Alexandra Black Wilson, Lonny Wilson, Allonja Wilson

Congratulations to the AANO on 75 Years!

I am forever grateful for the wonderful people I have met at the over 40 conventions and basketball tournaments I have attended. May you all make great connections this weekend! Gezuar!

Alexandra Black Wilson





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Congratulations to the AANO & the Detroit Chapter! Success to the 75th Annal Convention!

Avi, Phillip and Justin!



HURRAH!

For the Albanian-American National Organization's **75th** Anniversary



With Love and Exaltation

Philip & Norka Grameno

(Via Korca & Pogradec)

Congratulations to the AANO on its
Milestone 75th Anniversary!

In Loving Memory of My Parents
Steve and Eleni S. Pero



Shirley A. Pero
Worcester, Massachusetts

PHR Centers would like to congratulate the A.A.N.O. on their 75th Anniversary. We thank the A.A.N.O for giving back to our local Albanian community, helping young adults fulfill their scholastic dreams and for keeping our wonderful Albanian heritage intact by gathering us each year. Go Detroit Chapter!

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- *ViPeel*
- *Skin pen micro needling*
- *Teeth whitening*
- *Infrared sauna therapy*
- *Botox and more!*

Gëzuar! Dashuri Adam and Jessica Caruana

Congratulations to the Detroit Chapter Hosting the AANO 75th Anniversary!

Best Wishes for a Successful Event
And per Shume Vjet



Spiro and Eleni Bitta
Attended these wonderful Conventions
WE
Thank you for the many memories

Bitta & Nicholas Families

GREETINGS FROM THE WINDY CITY!

The Chicago Chapter is celebrating it's
60th AANO Anniversary this year.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the DETROIT CHAPTER
For hosting AANO'S 75th ANNIVERSARY
PËR SHUMË VJET GËZUAR



In loving memory of Gus and Alfreda Gorguze,

We are proud of our Albanian heritage and cherish our fond A.A.N.O. memories!



Congratulations Detroit on the 75th Jubilee AANO Convention!

William and Gayle Orlow and Family

Tom and DiAnn Gorguze and Family

Amy Gorguze da Silva and Family

Urime A.A.N.O. from the Kadi Family on CELEBRATING 75 Years of making great memories!



Aqif and Nina



Eddie Emin, Susanne, Nina, Diane and Meriem



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A warm welcome to our A.A.N.O. Family.
Celebrating 75 years of beautiful memories & friendships!
Për shumë vjet gëzuar

Vivian Chacho
Steve & Kathy Chacho
Dr. John & Carolyn Cotter

Anticipating a great 75th Convention from the Detroit Chapter

Urime!



Richard Rafail

Samantha and BJ Gobena

Quinn, Damien and Jordan

Stephanie and William Angarano

Valentina and Giavell

Congratulations to the Fabulous

Albanian American National Organization

and

The Amazing Detroit Chapter on the

75th Anniversary Jubilee Convention in Detroit, Michigan

August 3rd – 6th, 2023

With much love from your brothers and sisters in the Albany Chapter

As we celebrate our 56th year of membership in the A.A.N.O., Inc. having been inducted at the 1967 Washington DC convention.

Rroftë AANO!!!!

The Veliu family would like to wish everyone a wonderful 75th anniversary celebration!



We would also like to congratulate our oldest son, Sami Veliu, on his high school graduation. Sami was presented with several academic awards including the President's Award for Educational Excellence, AP Scholar and Principal's Honor Roll.

Samko we are so proud of you and wish you luck as you join the College of Engineering at Michigan State University in the fall!

Best of Luck,
Lori, Hysen and Aiden Veliu

BEST WISHES TO THE DETROIT CHAPTER

FOR A

SUCCESSFUL 75TH AANO CONVENTION

OLGA & VICTORIA TITOS


Welcome to Detroit
AANO
Congratulations to 75 YEAR
Wishing you all a very fun and successfully convention weekend!
From your
Filofam
Nerita, Fiona, Anton, Dylan and Ella
www.filofam.com

CONGRATULATIONS A.A.N.O.

on your

75th Anniversary



Për shumë vjet

Thank you for all our wonderful memories!

James and Paula Bendo

Robert and Alexandra Fiss

Marc and Christi Bendo

Andre and Christine Bendo

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Congratulations to the Detroit Chapter on a successful 75th Jubilee Convention
~Nev Muftari~

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The alumni of the Worcester Chapter
A.A.N.O.
send their congratulations to the
A.A.N.O.
on its 75th Jubilee Anniversary

Best Wishes to the A.A.N.O.
for a Successful 2023 Convention!

Për Shumë Vjet!



Congratulations to the A.A.N.O. on its 75th Convention!

In Loving Memory of
Our Parents and Grandparents

Thomas and Alexandria Laska

Wife, Mother and Sister-in-Law

Christine Laska

Carol, Robert, Philip, Kevin, and Kerry Laska

Worcester, MA Billerica, MA

Congratulations to the AANO on its Amazing 75th jubilee celebration!

This milestone should be celebrated!

This page is dedicated to my grandparents, Nevrus and Kile Selfo, who epitomized the best of being Albanian and instilled it in my sister and I;

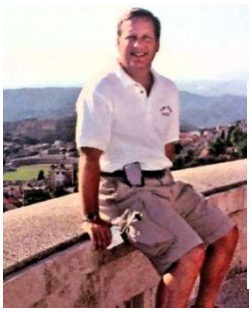




my mother, Rose Black, and aunts, Sally Negip and Frances Selfo, who all differently perpetuated the Albanian in spirit in us through exemplifying open-door hospitality; trips to Albania and stressing the importance of the Teqe and its people; and greatly supporting and being instrumental in helping move forward the AANO, respectively;



my father, William Black, for not only allowing and facilitating but also promoting us to be raised with the utmost "Albanian" spirit;



my husband, Tadd Harburn, pictured in Albania, who has been fully indoctrinated in our Albanian traditions and supported and aided with the AANO and all of our others endeavors every step of the way;

and finally, my nieces, Allonja and Kile Wilson, because I hope they and our Albanian youth are our future!



Julia Black – Attorney & Counselor at Law

JBA

JULIA L. BLACK
Attorney and Counsellor at Law

J. Black & Associates, P.L.C.

8455 South Saginaw Street • Suite 2 • Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Phone: (810) 694-8600 • Facsimile: (810) 694-8602
e-mail: jblack_associates@yahoo.com



Contact me for all your Residential & Commercial Real Estate needs in the Southeast Michigan. I am fluent in Albanian and I would be happy to help.



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E: Desluxuryrealestate@gmail.com

@desmaylinda

Des Maylinda Shemshedini

The Adam Family warmly welcomes everyone to Detroit Michigan.

We Congratulate the A.A.N.O on their 75th Anniversary

and thank them for helping so many young adults achieve their academic goals.



To a successful Detroit Convention and many more.

Go Detroit Chapter!!!

Fatmir, Bukuri, Dashuri, Alicia, John, Jaxon and Ruby

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Wishing the Detroit Chapter a Great Success!!



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CONGRATS TO THE DETROIT CHAPTER!

Welcome to Detroit to celebrate the 75th A.A.N.O. Jubilee!

Register for a free workout in Beacon Park on Eventbrite

Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 9:30 am

tracielgfitness.com



https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cardio-box-beak-at-the-park-tickets-680127929947?aff=oddtdtcreator

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Congratulations to the AANO 75th Jubilee and our wishes for many more years.
Gëzuar!
Helen & Marc Tomas



Gezuar and Faleminderit Detroit Chapter
for hosting a memorable
75th AANO Jubilee Anniversary Convention!

Our congratulations to the 2023 Honorees,
Scholarship Recipients and our new Queen!
Thank you and best wishes to our out-going Queen.

Our enthusiasm and Albanian/American spirit
remain strong. We have much for which to be proud.

The New York Chapter

of the

Albanian American National Organization

CONGRATULATIONS AANO ON THE 75TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION



THE SUNNY NAPLES CHAPTER SENDS BEST WISHES FOR THIS YEAR'S AANO CONVENTION AND SUCCESS TO THE DETROIT CHAPTER FOR HOSTING.

URIME!!!



Urime" to the AANO on celebrating its
75th Jubilee Anniversary Convention!

Thank you Detroit Chapter for being our gracious host for this special event to honor and enjoy our heritage!

The AANO has provided our family with many years of good fellowship, wonderful memories and lifelong friends.

Congratulations to this year's Honorees,
Scholarship Winners and new Queen!
Thank you and best wishes to our our-going Queen!



Per Shume Vjet, Gezuar!

THE FOUNDOS FAMILY

New York and California

Lou, Linda, Steve and Lauren

Mark, Amy, James and Evan

We wish all the AANO members and guests enjoy all Detroit has to offer
and a successful Convention

The Sunshine Chapter
of the AANO
Clearwater - Florida



CONGRATULATIONS AANO ON THE 75TH CONVENTION!

Shoqata Att
Knights of Columbus Gjergj Fishta
Albanian Council #10343



Congratulates the AANO
on the
75th year of promoting and cultivating our rich traditions

"Gezuar AANO!"



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PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING ME A CALL AND REST ASSURED THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SERVICE.

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The City of Brotherly Love and

The Philadelphia Chapter

Congratulates

Motown and

The Detroit Chapter

On a successful

75th Jubilee Convention!

THE DETROIT CHAPTER IS PROUD TO HOST THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION AND WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ALL FOR A GREAT TIME!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AANO FOR IT'S 75TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION!

JU MIRE PRESIM NE DETROIT!

Albanian American National Organization

Wishing the Detroit Chapter A.A.N.O. all the best

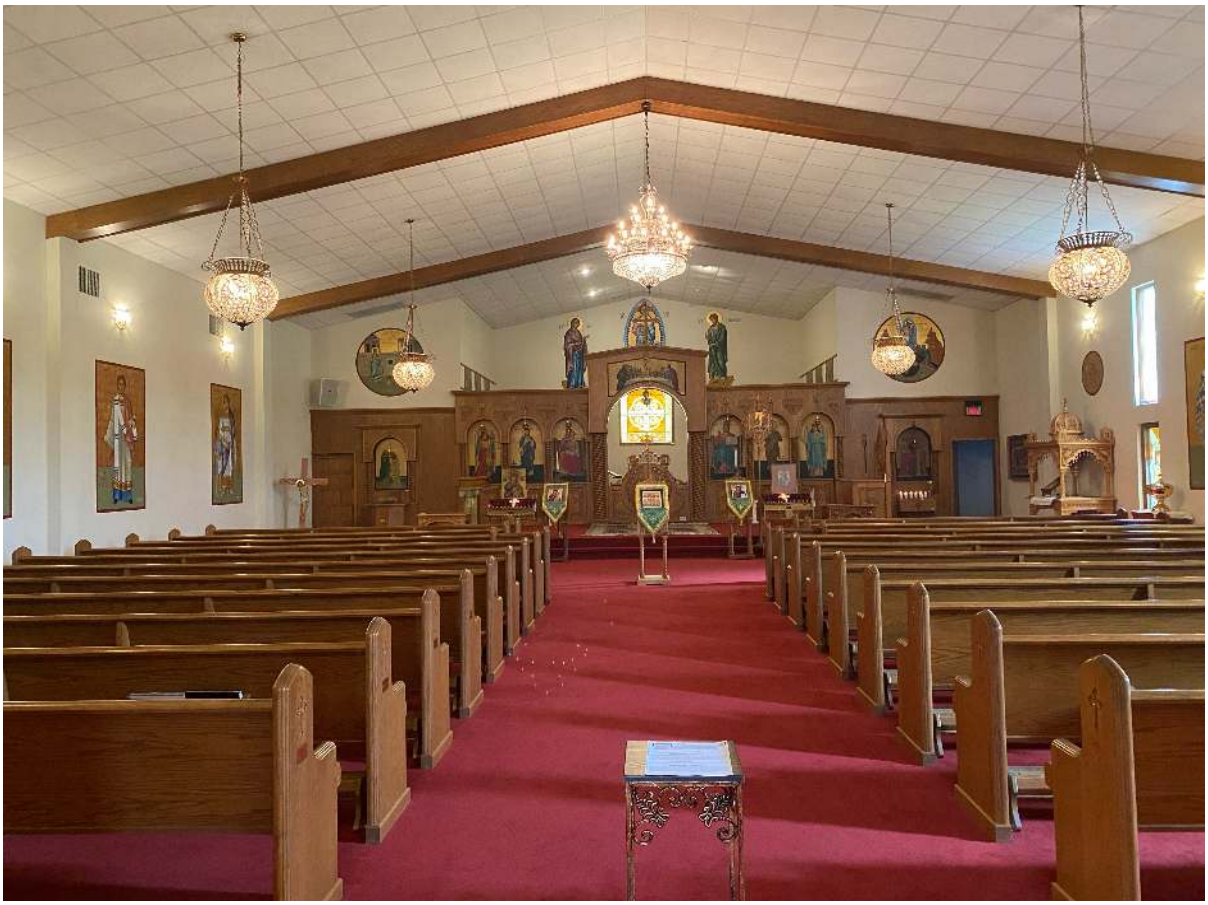
in celebrating the 75th Jubilee convention!

Per Shume Vjet!

St. Thomas Albanian Orthodox Church

29150 W. 10 Mile Road

Farmington Hills, MI



Congratulations to the AANO on the 75th National Convention in Detroit on August 3, 4, 5 and 6th, 2023!!!

In loving memory of and to honor our family:

Louis (Xheka) Apostol 1903-1992
Born in Vithkuq, Korçë

Elnor (Engwer) Apostol 1919- 1994
Main founder of the AANO Albany Chapter

Dhimitra (Xheka) Kita 1928-2016

Janet (Apostol) Baloglou 1939-2020

Alexandra (Apostol) Lemoine1944-2022

Paul Apostol 1946 -

Louise (Apostol) Mabin 1947-2022



Congratulations to the Detroit Chapter hosting

the Albanian American National Organization

AANO 75th Annual Convention

All the best from AANO DC CHAPTER

July 11, 2023

In Loving Memory

of Our

Beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather

Nicholas Adams



Marion Adams – Melville, NY

Jana, Phil, Nicholas and Andrew Foundos – Melville, New York

Matthew Sr., Brooke, Matthew Jr. Adams – Melbourne, Fl

Chris, Nicholas and Christian Adams – West Palm Beach, FL

Congratulations to the A.A.N.O.

75th Anniversary and National Convention

Detroit, Michigan

Celebrating our Albanian Heritage

Phil, Jana

Matthew, Christina Andrew and Nicholas Foundos

In memoriam

The Detroit Chapter dedicates this page to several past very important people to the National Organization who are no longer with us.

One is Frances Selfo, with unparalleled enthusiasm and energy without whom the Detroit Chapter would never have to come be (and of course we think Andrew Tanacea of Worcester who is still with us for rejuvenating us in the 90's)

We also dedicated it to four great men that were pillars of our organization, all whom have recently passed since covid.

We recognize Albert Foundos who was a long time member of the New York Chapter who supported our organization for decades and was a visionary who was instrumental, along with John Lulgjuraj, in making our dream of a 60th anniversary convention in Albania become a reality.

We recognize Lou Pero, a long-standing member of the Worcester chapter and past National President for his unwavering support and guidance and love that he had for this organization.

We recognize Perry Pero, Chicago chapter President for many decades, whose calm demeanor and unfaltering voice of logic and wisdom in national board meetings will never be forgotten and will be tremendously missed. His behind the scenes assistance and generosity will also always be remembered.

Finally, we recognize John Lulgjuraj, John was our National President at the time of his untimely death in 2021. John was from the Clearwater chapter but having come from Detroit and having made great contributions to our community. He will always be near and dear to our hearts. He was also relentless in the pursuit of our two conventions in Albania and without him they would not have been possible. He was a leader and a gentleman.

For us their memories will all be eternal and although they have left a permanent void in our organization we know that they would be so pleased about all of the youth here today and see the hope in our future!



75 Years of AANO FUN!









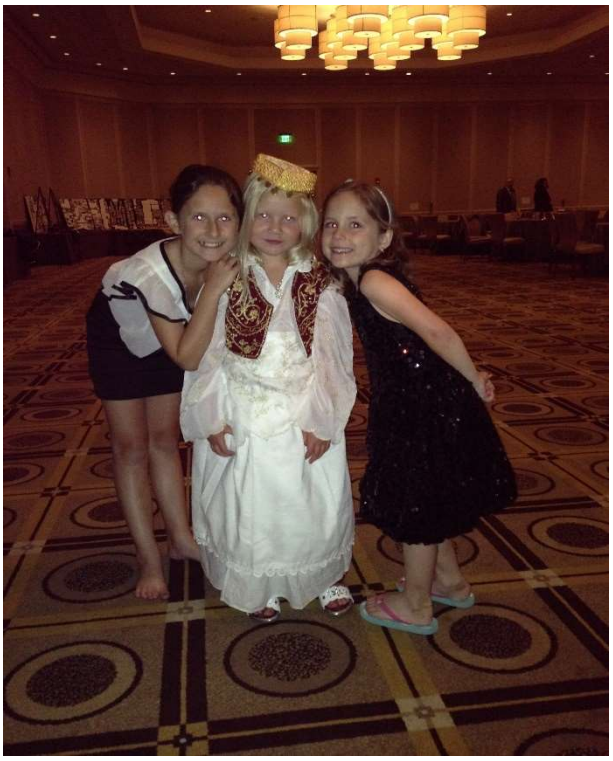









EXIT






























VINTAGE
1946
ORIGINAL PARTS





ANTHEM

The Albanian anthem was written by the Albanian poet, Asdreni (acronym for Aleks Stavre Drenova), who was born in 1872 and died in 1947. The original tittle of the hymn was “Betimi mi flamur”, or “Pledge to the flag”. The hymn was first published as a poem in “Liri e Shqiperise” (Freedom of Albania), an Albanian newspaper in Sofia, Bulgaria, in its issue of April 21, 1912. Later that year, it appeared in a volume of collected poems by Asdreni, under the tittle “Endra e Lot” (Dreams and Tears), which was published in Bucharest. The official anthem is composed of two verses from the original poem. The music of the anthem was composed by Romanian composer, Ciprian Porumbescu.

Hymni Kombetar

Rreth flamurit te perbashkuar,
Me nje deshire dhe nje qellim,
Te gjithe Atij duke iu betuar,
Te lidhim besen per shpetim.

Prej lufte vec ay largohet,
Qe eshte lindur tradhetor,
Kush eshte burre nuk friksohet,
Por vdes, por vdes si nje deshmor.

Ne dore armet do t’i mbajme,
Te mbrojme Atdheun ne cdo vend,
Te drejtat tona ne s’i ndajme,
Ketu armiqte s’kane vend.

Se Zoti vet e tha me goje,
Qe kombe shuhen permbi dhe,
Po Shqiperia do te rroje,
Per te, per te luftojme ne.

The National Anthem

United around the flag,
With one desire and one goal,
Let us pledge our word of honor,
To fight for our salvation.

Only he who is born a traitor,
Averts from struggle,
He was is brave in not daunted,
But falls – a martyr to the cause.

With arms in hand we shall remain,
To guard our fatherland round about,
Our rights we will not bequeath,
Enemies have no place here.

For the Lord Himself has said,
That nations vanish from the earth,
But Albania shall live on,
Because for her, it is for her that we fight.

National Anthems



THE STAR SPANGLED BANNOR

Oh, say can you see
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming.
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star spangle banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the
brave.



O CANADA!

Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



HYMNI I FLAMURIT

Rreth flamurit të përbashkuar
Me një dëshir' e një qëllim,
Të gjith' atij duke iu betuar
Të lidhim besën për shpëtim.
Prej lufte veç ai largohet
Që është lindur tradhëtar,
Kush është burrë nuk frikësohet,
Po vdes, po vdes si një dëshmor!
Prej lufte veç ai largohet
Që është lindur tradhëtar,
Kush është burrë nuk frikësohet,
Po vdes, po vdes si një dëshmor!