

re: HANC

Date: Fri, 9 May 2008

Dear Mr. Velivasakis,

This letter is being sent to you with bcc to a number of HANC members.

I ask that this letter be read during the meeting of Presidents tomorrow.

I would like to inform you officially that the Hellenic Federation of Northern California will not continue to participate in HANC activities.

We are disappointed with the attitude of the leadership.

Shortly following the Philadelphia meeting you issued a memorandum in which you attempted to put blame on the election committee in order to take away attention from the real major flaws of the meeting process.

You wrote: "we pulled it off despite some last minute difficulties caused by certain 'rulings' and attempts of the Election Committee with regard to the nomination process itself".

As chair of the elections committee, I took offense of that statement.

You and I had an exchange of emails during which I asked you to retract that statement and to this date you have not done so.

If anything, the election was the only thing in that meeting which was conducted according to proper procedure. I have been in public service for more than 20 years and served as Town Council Member and Mayor of my City. I know parliamentary procedure very well and my professionalism has never been in question.

I challenge anyone to question the election process in Philadelphia in a professional dialog. You rushed to single out and blame publicly the election committee in your memorandum without sensitivity and proper consideration. Now, I see in your announcement of tomorrow's meeting that you plan to bring a lawyer to speak about the process in Philadelphia. I can anticipate the jaw boning that will go on by the lawyer. I ask that the lawyer call me to hear my version as well and have a professional dialog before he makes comments based on your inputs only.

In my opinion, Mr Velivasakis, what HAN C needs is a unifying, constructive, compassionate, and inclusion-oriented leadership rather than lawyers and bravos strong arming the organization.

I am not naive. I know that HANC is a difficult organization to lead and manage. However, respect for the leadership must be earned rather than imposed. I appreciate the time and personal resources you are making available for HANC. But I must say that the HANC leadership is introverted in a small group of people and is missing out on the great talent that exists in the member organizations. Now you are planning to 'activate' an Advisory Board from outside of the member organizations, appointed by the HANC leadership in order to grab some newspaper headlines and divert attention from the internal HANC problems. An Advisory Board is a good idea and could be a great asset. But this is the wrong time given the internal issues that need to be resolved first.

Kind Regards and wishes for success,

Ted Laliotis,

President of Hellenic Federation of Northern California