

## STANDING COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRMEN FOR 2009-2011

### Activities Committee [actcom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:actcom@greekolympicsociety.org)

The basic efforts shall be to plan, organize, direct, and control the social functions of the Olympic Society. This effort shall include but not be limited to events for the monthly business meetings, theater events, family outings, etc. Coordinate these efforts with the Athletic, Education, Membership and Public Relations committees. One of its major activities that was initiated in 2008 was the holding of a [Picnic](#) for the entire community in June of each year



CO-CHAIRMAN: **GREG POPLOS**

**Greg Poplos** was born in Akron, Ohio and moved to Westerville with his family. He currently resides in Lewis Center, Ohio with Anna, his wife of nine and a half years. Greg graduated from The Ohio State University College of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer and Information Science. Greg has spent his career in the banking industry and

is currently a Technology Project Manager for JPMorgan Chase. He has a wide range of interests including family, Ohio State football, golf, dining out, and trying (unsuccessfully) to train his two parakeets.

*"It is rewarding to be part of the Greek Olympic Society which serves the community in so many ways, and it is uplifting to see the positive impacts this group has on so many people's lives."*



CO-CHAIRMAN: **DICK SNOW**

**Richard D. Snow**, was born in Columbus, Ohio, and after a moving away for a short time, he came back to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University, majoring in engineering. Dick was employed as a Design Engineer at Lucent Technologies, until his retirement in 1988. He also served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War, and then

remained in the Reserve Component until 1983 for nearly 32 years of service. Dick is an active member in The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church where he participates in the choir. He is also the past President of the church's senior 50+ group and is currently serving on the Long Range Planning Committee. Dick and his wife, Marjorie, currently reside in Columbus, Ohio

### Athletic Committee [athcom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:athcom@greekolympicsociety.org)

Its purpose shall be to organize and plan various types of sports activities for the membership participation, either as a spectator or as a participant. The events shall include but not be limited to such activities as soccer, volley ball, tennis, baseball, football, basketball, miscellaneous athletic events, golf outings and other recreational programs.



CHAIRMAN: Dr. **GEORGE GULU**

**George Gulu**, was born and raised in Campbell, Ohio. He has been married to his wife, Sundy, for 27 years, and they have 2 children, George and Nicole. George completed his undergraduate degree, as well as his dental studies, at The Ohio State University. George's dental practice is located in southwest side of Columbus. George enjoys running, and he has run 20

marathons. George enjoys the fellowship, as well as, the philanthropic endeavors of the Olympic Society. He organizes the annual golf outing to which everyone in the community is invited.

### Calling Committee

This committee is responsible for verbal communication with the membership on meeting schedules and major program events sponsored by GOS, and its members rotate.

### Fund Raising Committee [fundcom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:fundcom@greekolympicsociety.org)

The baseline effort is to provide various methods by which the Olympic Society can raise the monies to support and to appropriate funds for the selected activities agreed to by the membership.



CHAIRMAN: **NICK GELDIS**

**Nick Geldis** was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. Nick and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 28 years, and they have three daughters- Eleni, Kali and Stephanie. Nick is a self-employed real estate investor

and property manager, who enjoys soccer, basketball, hockey and Ohio State football, and he stays in shape by jogging and being “an old man” in basketball. As an avid reader, Nick enjoys dabbling in literature of the 19th and 20th centuries.

*“I believe in the ideals and goals of the Greek Olympic Society and can’t think of a better way to contribute to the Greek community. I’ve made many new friends in the last 10 years from my affiliation in the Greek Olympic Society.”*

**Membership Committee**     [memcom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:memcom@greekolympicsociety.org)

The effort shall be directed at both retention and expansion of the Membership to cover a wider selection of personnel commensurate with the status of the existing Greek Community make-up. Expand the base of the Olympic Society membership to be more representative of the current community.



**CHAIRMAN: CHRIS BOUZOUNIS**

**Chris Bouzounis** has been married to his wife, Sue, for 42 years, and they have two children and two grandchildren. He was born in Molaoi Laconias, Greece but has lived in Columbus for over 40 years. Chris founded Artina Promotional Products in 1967 and is the company’s President. He enjoys sports, volunteering and reading. Chris is a member of the Annunciation Church, Ohio Society of Association Executives, Experience Columbus, The Advertising Federation of Columbus, Columbus Chamber of Commerce and an Opera Columbus Trustee.

**Philanthropic Committee**     [philcom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:philcom@greekolympicsociety.org)

Organize Philanthropic Projects on behalf of the Hellenic Community in association with the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Columbus, Ohio.



**CHAIRMAN: HARRY RUSKA**

**Harry Ruska** was born in Staten Island, New York, and then moved to Clearwater Beach, Florida. But, as of 2003, Harry has found a permanent residence in Columbus. Harry has a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Tech and a MBA from Syracuse. Harry and his wife, Anna, have been married for 17 years and have two children, Jimmy and Maria. He is interested in sports, computers and his children’s

activities.

**Education Committee**     [educom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:educom@greekolympicsociety.org)

This committee is charged with the task of planning programs which provide beneficial information of interest to the membership, plan special events to emphasize our Greek heritage, and to prepare programs that will assist our youth in furthering their education. Such efforts shall include obtaining speakers on a variety of subjects, coordinating with the Hellenic Foundation on programs, sponsoring scholarship programs, and other events of interest to the membership.

**CHAIRMAN: NICK KONTRAS**



**Nick Kontras** was born and raised in Columbus and later became a graduate of The Ohio State University. At his firm, Kontras Financial Services, he provides tax planning and preparation services. Nick is also associated with Future Finances, Inc., a wealth management firm that specializes in retirement planning issues. He has been married to his wife, Karen, for 24 years, and they have 2 children, Kallie and Jimmy. Nick has spent much of his time with the youth in Central Ohio, participating in Goya activities or teaching Sunday school. Most recently, Nick formed an organization that will establish a Hellenic cultural center in the Central Ohio area. Nick’s real passion in life is music that spans many generations.

**Public Relations Committee**     [pubrcom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:pubrcom@greekolympicsociety.org)

To be responsible for providing all the necessary data for release that will enhance the Society’s image and position with both the Greek Community and the Greater Columbus area. Responsible for preparation of all data released to support events sponsored by the Society. The chairman is to coordinate with all other committees to assure the maximum dissemination of information.



**CHAIRMAN: GEORGE LIMBERT**

**George Limbert** was born in Youngstown, OH and has recently moved back to the Columbus area after law school. George is an attorney at Isaac,

Brant, Ledman & Teetor in Columbus representing individuals, businesses, and political subdivisions. George is a graduate of the University of Dayton School of Law (2007). He is also a graduate of the Fisher College of Business at the Ohio State University (2004) earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. He is the grandson of long time Columbus businessman and community leader George Brown

### **Parliamentarian**

The duties of the Parliamentarian are to maintain the By-laws of the Society and assist in the interpretation and implementation of the By-laws during the business segment of the Society meetings



CHAIRMAN: **JIM DRACOPOULOS**

**Demetrios (Jim) Dracopoulos** was born in Athens, Greece and grew up in eastern Ohio. A Columbus resident since 1996, Jim has also worked in New York City and the Washington, D.C. Licensed as an attorney in Ohio and New York, he has broad experience in the insurance and securities industries as well as government. Jim interests include the financial markets and politics. He also enjoys traveling mainly to his ancestral island

of Ithaki.

**Greek Community Resource Guide** [guidcom@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:guidcom@greekolympicsociety.org)

Its purpose shall be to inform the members of the Society and the Greek Community at large of the useful resources in both business and social sectors, which are available to the Greek Community in central Ohio. It is published every other year, and besides ads of local businesses it includes contact information on the cultural and educational activities of the Greek Olympic Society and of the other organizations in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral



CHAIRMAN: **CHRIS BOUZOUNIS**

**Chris Bouzounis** has been married to his wife, Sue, for 42 years, and they have two children and two grandchildren. He was born in Molaoi Laconias, Greece but has lived in Columbus for over 40 years. Chris founded Artina Promotional Products in 1967 and is the company's President. He enjoys sports, volunteering and reading. Chris is a member of the Annunciation

Church, Ohio Society of Association Executives, Experience Columbus, The Advertising Federation of Columbus, Columbus Chamber of Commerce and an Opera Columbus Trustee.



CO-CHAIRMAN: **PETER BASIAKOS**

**Peter Basiakos** was born in Canton, Ohio and graduated from the Ohio State University majoring in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Communications. He currently resides in Hilliard, Ohio with his wife Irene and two sons, Steven and A.G. Peter is an account manager with Brainstorm Media Inc., a full service audio/video media production firm

located in Grandview. He enjoys travel, music and sports including the 'Buckeyes' and watching his sons play high school lacrosse and soccer.

**Greek Ethos** [ethos@greekolympicsociety.org](mailto:ethos@greekolympicsociety.org)

The mission of Greek Ethos is to enrich our knowledge with the publication of stories and historical facts on our epic Hellenic past, traditions, language, and unique religion, which we are practicing in complete freedom in the heart of America, Columbus, Ohio, USA! The goal of Greek Ethos is to raise the awareness of and pride in our ethos and ethnicity so that the next generations will continue to celebrate and preserve the Hellenic traditions and heritage.



EDITOR & PUBLISHER: **E. PAUL TAIGANIDES**

**Eliseos Paul Taiganides** graduated from Veria high school in 1952. On a scholarship to study irrigation engineering, he attended Maine and Iowa State universities, but for his PhD he specialized in environmental engineering, which was the emerging field in the 1960s that ushered in the era of closing of antiquated factories that caused the pollution in the 1970s, the same way that climate change is forcing the reorientation of the car and energy industries nowadays. He joined the OSU faculty in 1965, but in 1975, he moved his family to Singapore on a year's leave that was extended to 12, working as project manager for the United Nations in Singapore, Malaysia, and traveling to many countries as technical adviser on [pollution control](#) from livestock farms. As a lecturer and engineering consultant, Paul has traveled in Asia, Europe, North and Latin America and is currently technical environmental adviser to



projects in Vietnam, China, Mexico, Greece, and Malaysia. An active member of the Greek Olympic Society, Paul edits the magazine [Greek Ethos](#) and produces plays from the [Classical Greek Theater](#) repertoire. Paul is married to Maro Liapakis and they have 3 children and 9 grandchildren with whom they spend their summers by the beaches on the island of Crete in Greece.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: see foto; President [Denny Mardas](#) and editor [E Paul Taiganides](#) are also members of the Advisory committee for Greek Ethos. [Nick Geldis](#) is the chairman

