



Elections for the Executive Board – Fall 2016  
Candidate Profiles

**President**

**Candidate:** Alexander Thomopoulos

**University:** University of Maryland, College Park

**Major:** Biological Sciences

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

NHSA is a growing organization with the foundation, network and mission to make a difference in young people's lives, be they immigrants from Greece, 1st or 2nd generation Hellenic descent. The Executive Board has the power to shape the policy, conduct business, and create opportunities for NHSA to grow, attract more members, mentors, sponsors, and further Hellenism. As President, I would: set policies to increase the membership and exclusivity of NHSA, increase the amount, efficacy, and product of our initiatives, and unify the rest of the Board members to work on these projects. A President must be decisive but adaptable, firm but understanding, and above all, powerful but humble. I believe that I can bring to this position many of these, as well as cultivate and hone many of these personal traits while serving.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*

I have been a financial adviser to the President of the Greek Heritage Society of UMD for a semester and then served as Treasurer and Vice President consecutively for another 2. I have also served as Fundraising Director and Vice President of NHSA for the past 20 months. I have attended several NHSA Conventions, other Hellenic Conventions, and cross-organizational summits and meetings.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*

I plan to redefine membership benefits and requirements. It will allow NHSA to target a broader audience while at the same time creating a sense of exclusivity. NHSA members will have to prove more active and in turn receive more benefits (listed below).

I plan to follow through on the creation of a joint or independent scholarship offered to a student of exceptional academic and social achievement.

I plan to follow through on the creation of a free, online, multi-disciplinary academic journal.

I plan on working towards the creation of a Board of Trustees and endowment that will solidify the presence, gravity, and reach of NHSA.

*Is there any other information you would like others to know about you?*

I know the price of success, the ease of failure, and the merit of hard work. I've worked with NHSA and many of its board members and connections and look forward to making continue



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leading NHSA in a bright, fruitful, and positive direction. But I know how to party hard as well. But that's classified.



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**Vice President**

**Candidate:** Konstantina Panagiotopoulos

**University:** DePaul University

**Major:** English and Spanish

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

I would like to run for Vice President of NHSA because I feel that my work has not yet finished. I would like to support Alexander Thomopoulos, the current presidential candidate just as he supported my vision for NHSA when I served as president for nearly 2 years.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*

Served as President of NHSA for 3 conventions. Envisioned a new executive board, constitution, logo, website, itinerary, marketing campaign, convention structure, planning process, and initiatives. Expanded NHSA network and convention attendance.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*

We plan to take NHSA to the next level by creating new initiatives such as: an Activism Project (refugee crisis), an Academic Journal, and a Scholarship Foundation.

*Is there any other information you would like others to know about you?*

I feel qualified to lead in this position based on the many hours dedicated to this organization as well as the experience gained from planning 3 conventions, serving as Regional Director, and restructuring/revitalizing the organization.



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**Director of Operations**

**Candidate:** Jason Mantzouranis

**University:** Northwestern University

**Major:** Computer Engineering

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

NHSA is a quickly growing organization with the ability to help Greeks and Greek-Americans and to make strong, positive contributions to the Hellenic community. As someone who grew up in Greece and now lives in the US, I have a strong desire to promote and further Hellenism, and by being on the Executive Board I will be able to play my part in bringing Greeks together and strengthening our community. As part of the board this past year, I have seen everyone on the board come up with many good ideas and initiatives that would help NHSA grow and that would greatly benefit the greater Hellenic community. However, many of these ideas were not pursued or the people who took charge of them were not followed up with. As director of operations, I want to keep track of and help the rest of NHSA pursue these ideas and initiatives. Furthermore, I want to help minimize the last-minute stress that tends to exist leading up to and during the conventions by making sure that we stay on schedule in the months preceding each convention and by ensuring that anything that can be completed ahead of time is done then.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*

Ever since moving to the USA 5 years ago, I have been involved in the Hellenic community. As a freshman at Northwestern University, I immediately joined the Hellenic American Student Union, of which I later became an executive board member and co-president. During this time, I worked to organize a variety of events, collaborating with both my executive board and the Northwestern community, as well as with other Hellenic Associations in the Chicago area. During my last quarter at Northwestern I also got involved with NHSA and at the beginning of 2016 I joined the executive board as the IT director. As IT director, apart from building and maintaining the new website, I have also assisted with a variety of tasks and logistics leading up to and during the conventions, and have been part of the planning process for multiple conventions. As a result, I now have experience with the inner workings of NHSA, I have understood what is needed to effectively plan and execute the conventions and various initiatives, and I have seen what aspects do not work as intended and need improvement. This experience and familiarity with the executive board, paired with my organizational and time-management skills, will help me be effective in the role of Director of Operations, allowing me to help NHSA continue and build on its success.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*



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The Director of Operations should be in frequent, close contact with everyone on the executive board in order to be able to monitor and keep track of the progress on all important tasks. In order to achieve this, there needs to be an organized to-do list shared among everyone and a timeline of the various projects/tasks/initiatives, with regular checkpoints. This will allow us to have the tasks that can be completed ahead of time actually be completed ahead of time by the appropriate people, thus eliminating last-minute stress. For example, we should have press releases mostly completed prior to the conventions in order to be able to finalize them and send them out in the hours following the end of each convention. In general, a checklist and timeline of required items and task should be made and followed when planning each convention. Apart from this, regional directors should be given more emphasis; they should be encouraged and given any necessary support to actively promote NHSA and engage their Hellenic communities and the Hellenic associations at the universities in their areas throughout the year. In this way, students, young professionals and all members of the Hellenic community will feel more closely connected to NHSA and more likely to become involved.



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**Treasurer**

**Candidate:** Vasilis Psomas

**University:** Drexel University

**Major:** Finance and Economics

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

I have been part of the NHSA board and conference planning committee for about two years and with the support of our delegate voting members I would love to continue serving NHSA in uniting students, professionals and mentors across North America. I am specifically running for the treasurer position because I can contribute the most via this position by handling the conference budgets, negotiating deals with our vendors and balancing our accounts under the finance committee's supervision.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*

Treasurer for the past two years, Bachelor's degree in Finance and Economics and a natural skill of finding and closing the best deals for the convention members to get the most value out of their ticket investment.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*

I plan on working closely with the rest of the board to include more activities for the NHSA people to make a more enjoyable weekend at no or very little extra cost.

*Is there any other information you would like others to know about you?*

I was raised in Greece and speak fluent Greek and that gives me an extra advantage when dealing with stakeholders of similar backgrounds.



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**Director of Public Relations & Recruitment**

**Candidate:** Tamika Tompoulidis

**University:** University of Kentucky

**Major:** Communication

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

I believe with my qualifications that I can assist in promoting NHSA more, be more transparent among the HSA chapters, and continue to lead with an incredible team. I enjoyed working with the team last year. Now with having one convention under my belt, I can better assess what needs to be done to make the next convention better for both the participants and the team.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*

The qualifications that I have include having previous experience on the executive board for NHSA and holding leadership positions in previous student organizations. I have been a marketing director in the past (for UK's Student Government Association) and understand the skills needed to promote an organization, but also work as a team. I am also involved with Philo4Thought, where I serve as a mentor. Finally, I teach communication courses at the university level and can thus give public speeches, but also assist others in creating and delivering their speeches as well. I also work for a recruiting and consulting firm in Kentucky called New School Recruiting, where I read resumes, interview potential employees for open positions with clients, and attend networking events to promote the firm.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*

How I would help NHSA improve is to first, have a better understanding of each executive members leadership and personality types. By identifying their strengths and weaknesses, we can better cooperate as a team and move forward. Second, I would assess the feedback from participants of the convention and identify areas for improvement for the next convention. Third, I would finally create a promotion video of what NHSA is and incorporate HSA members as well for promotional purposes. As part of the marketing team, we would collaborate promotional ideas well in advance. We would increase communication among the HSA chapters, especially those that will be hosting the next conference, and promote NHSA at various Hellenic events. Finally, I would provide promotional material to the HSA chapters and help them grow. When the chapters expand their membership at a local level, we will not only increase participants in future conventions, but assist them in promoting Hellenism through various initiatives that NHSA can help provide.



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**Director of Special Projects & Initiatives**

Candidate: Eirene Haralambopoulos

University: Loyola University, Chicago

Major: Advertising and Public Relations

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

I am interested in being a part of the executive board of NHSA because I believe we have the power to change the views of young Hellenic students. We are the ultimate resource for them in ensuring they are educated about Hellenism as well as their futures in the professional world. Since volunteering for the Chicago convention, I wanted a role in NHSA to leave the same impression on other students.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*

In high school, I was blessed to be a part of a loving Goya (with beloved director Father George Lamberis) at my church that let me travel to Boston, New York, and Minnesota on outreach trips. We would volunteer for St. Basil's Academy and different philoptochos societies. This is when I grew closer to my faith and culture. In college, I focused my time and energy being a part of my HSA and OCF communities that bring Greek and Orthodox students together. These organizations allow us to volunteer (Hollywood Retirement Home, Ronald McDonald House Charities) and work with other HSAs to make Chicago a powerhouse community for Greek students. Furthermore, I find joy in being a Greek School Dance teacher every Saturday, to start educating even the youngest children to be proud of their culture. Besides my experience in outreach, organizations, and the Greek community, I have an Advertising/Public Relations major which allows me to channel persuasion and targeting key audiences. Furthermore, my management minor has allowed me to lead many teams and manage my time accordingly.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*

In terms of NHSA as a whole, I think we need to focus on spreading awareness of our conventions each semester. From a convention attendee's perspective, we need to implement more incentives to attract more students. This can be done through research with more surveys and focus groups. Also, we need to emphasize that we are not only fun Greek nights or just a networking convention. We need to emphasize the ability to have both professionalism while bonding and having a good, responsible time. Another thing we can do is make it mandatory for an NHSA representative to visit with HSAs and show them a short presentation on the convention, outlining everything we have to offer (costs, speakers, itinerary, benefits of attending, etc.).

*Is there any other information you would like others to know about you?*



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I am a self-motivated and hard worker. A goal of mine is to influence younger and older students to engage in their culture to further succeed professionally while building a community. I have been doing this as a Greek dance teacher, a member in HSA and OCF, and hope to continue doing so through NHSA.



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**Director of Marketing**

**Candidate 1: Alexandros Lambropoulos**

*University:* Drexel University

*Major:* Economics

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

NHSA is the largest student and recent graduate organization in the United States; as a result, we have the opportunity to unite all young Greeks and Greek-Americans to promote Hellenism within our community and empower the future generation of our diaspora. It is an honor to be a part of an organization with such a great mission, and I look forward to further implementing initiatives to grow NHSA even more.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*

I have been actively involved in the board of NHSA since the Summer of '15.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*

Expanding the NHSA network through targeted promoting and new marketing initiatives

*Is there any other information you would like others to know about you?*

I know the price of success, the ease of failure, and the merit of hard work. I've worked with NHSA and many of its board members and connections and look forward to making continue leading NHSA in a bright, fruitful, and positive direction. But I know how to party hard as well. But that's classified.

**Candidate 2: Christina Voulgarelli-Christidou**

*University:* New School

*Major:* Creative Publishing & Design

*Why do you want to run for a position on the Executive Board of NHSA?*

I would love to contribute to the Greek Community and I find this organization an important one for now and for the future, even more. I consider that we need to strengthen our relationships with our fellow Greeks in the USA and all over the world, providing a protection network as well as a sense of community.

*What qualifications do you have to hold the position(s) selected?*



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I do have vast experience with marketing as well as logistics. I have worked for Mediaocean, JDA, as well as start-ups and real estate. I have written reports on the shipping industry as well as the migration issues regarding Greece and the Mediterranean. I have good knowledge of IT as well as online advertisement via social platforms. I am currently building up my LinkedIn and learn about the essentials there too.

*If elected, what ideas do you have to improve and/or grow NHSA?*

I would first start contributing to your project with online marketing and outreach via online platforms, from LinkedIn to Facebook, as well as advertisements on various mediums, digital, as well as print. Secondly, it would be important to raise the fundraising base and build a program for better financing from donors and interested parties. Thirdly, a good and integral image can be cultivated with very good photographs of the conventions as well as some of the events organized. Furthermore, organizing more events in cultural as well as city hubs would be important. Finally, I could contribute in event logistics for conventions or anything else, as well as general databases, finance construction and recommendations.

*Is there any other information you would like others to know about you?*

I have worked as a public speaker and panelist, as well as author for various convention from GSA (Global Studies Association), to SEA (Southern Eastern Association), as well as the News School, in particular the group called OIKOS (an economic forum).