



The American Hungarian Federation

FOUNDED 1906

AHF NEWS RELEASE

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AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION SUCCESSFULLY REORGANIZES **The American Hungarian Federation confirms new Leadership and by-laws.**

The American Hungarian Federation, established in 1906, is among the oldest ethnic organizations in the United States. AHF was established as an association of Hungarian societies, institutions and churches to “defend the interests of Americans of Hungarian origin in the United States.”

The AHF last met on March 27th, elected an interim leadership, and outlined its plans to revitalize and unite the Hungarian community under this prestigious umbrella organization. The new leadership emphasized the need to increase cooperation and coordination among all Hungarian organizations and individuals. AHF also emphasized the need to bring Hungarian-related issues to the forefront in the media and US Congress and represent the needs of the Hungarian-American community in various topics from Visa's to scholarships to the promotion of human rights and justice for Hungarians beyond the borders.



In its General Meeting on October 9th, 2004, AHF confirmed its new leadership, accepted new by-laws, and discussed plans for the future that include expanding membership and fundraising, decentralizing responsibilities and creating regional offices, applying technology, supporting scholarships, establishing a media and information office, and commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.



In discussing the divisions that once crippled the organization, Stephen Varga, the newly elected President of AHF, said, “We will no longer allow those negative forces to diminish or new found enthusiasm and spirit of togetherness. I call on all Hungarians and Hungarian Organizations to join with me, William Penn, the Hungarian Reformed Federation, the Hungarian Churches, and other venerable Hungarian organizations to join with us in rebuilding the American Hungarian Federation not for ourselves but for our future generations.”

Bryan Dawson-Szilagy, AHF's Vice President commented, “I am from a new generation. I am not interested in past divisions, but rather in what is to come. We have so much work to do. We have many new members that are ready to take on the challenges we face. Our biggest challenge is convincing the American-Hungarian community that the change of direction within AHF is very real. Our incredible successes over the past year serve as a testament to this. We supported the successful Szelmenc project initiated by the Center for Hungarian American Congressional Relations (www.chacr.org) and the recently organized Congressional Hungarian Caucus; spoke out on important topics from NATO to church restitutions in Transylvania and Trans-Carpathia; and funded scholarships. Our Website shows our story. Our next challenge is to reach out to the 2nd and 3rd generation Hungarian Americans that feel, as I do, a genuine love for their heritage and a desire to leave a stronger and more united Hungarian-American community which is able to continue the noble work started by our forefathers and preserve the traditions, institutions and memorials established in the past 150 years.” >>> more about AHF



About AHF: The American Hungarian Federation (AHF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio. AHF's Motto, "Faithful Unto Death," was taken from a letter written by former Hussar Officer Mihaly Kovats to Benjamin Franklin. Kovats, known as Father of the US Cavalry, offered his sword in service to the United States and died in battle against the British in Charleston, S.C. in 1779. Just as Kovats' life and service is celebrated annually by US Military Cadets at the Citadel, the motto reflects AHF virtues, and historically and inextricably ties Hungarians and Americans together while symbolizing Hungarians' contributions and sacrifices to America's beginning. Among the oldest ethnic organizations in the US, AHF was established as an association of Hungarian societies, institutions and churches to "defend the interest of Americans of Hungarian origin in the United States."

All are encouraged to join. Tax-deductible donations are also welcome. Join and contribute through our Website or mail. See www.americanhungarianfederation.org

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