



KARYYES

Lakonia



Karyates Association's News Bulletin

Issue number 47

Winter 2025-26

Karyes celebrated their patron saint Apostle Andrew the First-Called



On **Sunday, November 30**, Karyes celebrated their patron saint, Apostle Andrew the First-Called.

After the festive Divine Liturgy, a reception was held by the Karyates Association and the Karyes Saint Andrew Church Council at the Community's event space. Present, among others, were the Deputy Minister of National Defense and MP of the New Democratic Party in Laconia, Mr. Athanasios Davakis, the MP of the New Democratic Party in Laconia, Dr. Neoklis Kritikos, the Deputy Governor of Laconia, Mr. Theodoros Veroutis, the Deputy Mayor of Sparta, Mr. Theofanis Lazaris, the President of the Karyes Local Community Mr. Panagiotis Mentis, and the representative of Karyes in the Municipal Council of Sparta and President of Municipal Water and Sewerage Company (D.E.Y.A.S.), Mr. Dimitrios Arvanitis.

The officials and other attendees were welcomed by the President of the Karyates Association, Mr. Michael Repoulis, and the other members of the Board of Directors.

This was followed by a tour of the building of the Center for Memory and Culture by the members of the Board of Directors of the Association.



The President of the Board of Directors of the Karyates Association, Mr. Michael Repoulis, welcomes those present, flanked by Mr. Veroutis on the left and on the right by Mr. Davakis, Mr. Kritikos, Mr. Arvanitis and Mr. Lazaris



The president and the members of the Board of Directors of the Karyates Association

wish all Karyates

Merry Christmas

and a Happy 2026

The Karyes Cultural Club

Christmas Party

on 25 December 2025



Πολιτιστικός σύλλογος Καρυών
25/12/2025

Σας καλούμε στο κοινοτικό κατάστημα του χωριού να διασκεδάσουμε όλοι μαζί με ζωντανή μουσική, κρασί, ποτό και γευστικές ποικιλίες!

Ωρα έναρξης: 21:30
Είσοδος 5 ευρώ

*Θα γίνει κλήρωση για ένα τριήμερο ταξίδι στην Άνω Βλασία στα Καλάβρυτα.

Τηλ. κρατήσεων: 6986772315

HAVE WE PAYED OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?

Dear compatriot,

The Karyates Association has served its purposes for over half a century thanks to your love and support. To achieve its goals, the only thing that asks from you is the annual membership fee of

€ 5.00 or US\$ 5.00

Anyone may pay that small fee, "digitally" through internet banking.

The bank account number (IBAN) is:

GR 560110 662 00000 66200 228709

SYNDESMOS TON APANTAHOU KARYATON SWIFT (BIC) ETHNGRAA / NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

The same account is available to anyone for donations and any financial support desired for the purposes of the Association.

Regarding the Newsletter, although the cost of postage is high, it will be sent FREE OF CHARGE. However, every contribution helps us cover the costs and gives us strength to keep going.

*With Patriotic greetings,
The Karyates Association Board of Directors*

"Creating a Development Reserve" An event by the Karyates Association and the Parnonas Development Association



In the context of the completion of the local LEADER/CLLD 2014-2020 program of the Parnonas Development Company, which gave new life to the Eastern Peloponnese, an event was hosted on November 21, 2025 by the **Karyates Association** in the event hall of the **Karyes Memory and Culture Center**.

The event was attended by the **Deputy Governor of the Peloponnese Mr. Christos Lambropoulos**, the **Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Development Parnonas Mr. Spyridon Floros**, the **CEO Mr. Marinis Beretsos**, the **former minister Mr. Arachovitis**, company executives, environmentalists, researchers and residents of Karyes.

The speakers highlighted the recent (September 2025) **declaration of Mount Parnonas and Cape Malea as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, a special honor, and copies of the Declaration were offered to the participants in the program. Among them was the Karyates Association (photo on the right is the president of the Karyates Board of Directors, Mr. Michael Repoulis). At the end of the event, the Association offered a light meal to all attendees.

The new Karyes website: www.karyeslakonias.gr



By Ms. Margie Konstantopoulos, Site Administrator

As Karyes develops and aims for a better tourist product, our village website had to follow the developments. If nothing else, the Karyates and Karyatesse volunteers and funders are omnipresent and so we are in a happy position to present to the Karyates the new renewed village website <https://karyeslakonias.gr>.

A project that quietly became a reality and for this we warmly thank our compatriot **Ms. Terpsichore Giokalis** and her team at **Up & Wave** <https://upandwave.com> for the excellent cooperation we had and the planning, implementation and assumption of the initial operating costs. The excellent result is accessible at <https://karyeslakonias.gr>.

The old website at **Karyes.gr** will be active until the content transfer is completed and then it will remain in operation as a hub of the archival digital material of Karyes accessible to all.

THE CLUB'S NEWS

The elections results for the appointment of the new Board of Directors of the Karyes Fire Department

The new Board of Directors of the Karyes Fire Department was formed following the elections held in November.

The new Board of Directors is as follows:

- President: Achilleas Sioutos**
- Vice President: Ioannis Mentis**
- General Secretary: Dimitrios Mar. Arvanitis**
- Treasurer: Nikolaos Mar. Arvanitis**
- Public Relations Officer: Andreas Tsoulos**
- Materials Officer: Konstantinos Kolovos**
- Member: Spyridon Leventakis**

The Board of Directors warmly thanks the fifty or more members who participated in his nomination.

It also warmly thanks **Mr. Panagiotis Dianzikis** for the donation of the amount of € 500.00.

We wish him a good term.

The results of the elections for the new Board of Directors of the Kerchoulas Trust

The Panagiotis Kerchoulas Trust announces that, following the elections of the General Assembly of October 26, 2025 and the Board of Directors meeting of October 30, 2025 (Minutes #48), the Board of Directors was constituted as follows:

- Board of Directors (Term 2025-2027)**
- **President: Olga Emm. Dretakis**
- **Vice President: Dimitra Chr. Drakopoulos**
- **Secretary General: Michael Spyr. Hikaras**
- **Treasurer: Georgios Nik. Arvanitis**
- **Member: Sarantos Nik. Kaperonis**
- **Member: Georgios Kon. Dalakouras**
- **Member: Fotios Pan. Kontalonis**

Alternate Members:

1. **Panaghiota Theod. Harakas**
2. **Konstantinos Pan. Macheras**

According to a related post: "As we take over the management, the new Board of Directors wishes to warmly thank the outgoing members and the previous administrations for their valuable contribution and the time they devoted to the organization and operation of our institution. We recognize that the management of the Trust is a continuous and collective responsibility. Our main goal is to ensure the continuity of the work that has been produced, building on the foundations laid by our predecessors. In a spirit of unity and cooperation, we commit to working for the transparent and optimal utilization of resources, honoring the memory and will of the benefactor Panagiotis Kerchoulas, always for the benefit of the community of Karyes.

President Olga Dretaki
Secretary General Michalis Hikaras"

WOULD YOU WISH TO BE ADVERTISED IN OUR NEWSPAPER?

Contact us at 0030-6974-720909
or at the email:
karyates.association@karyes.gr

ANNOUNCEMENT / INVITATION

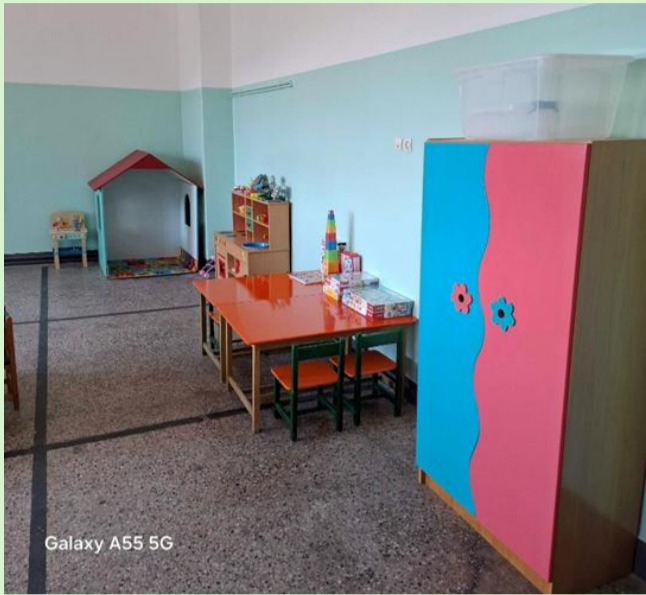
Are you involved in the arts
(painting, music-song, dance, theater, photography, video, floristry, crafts)?
The Karyates Association invites you to contact us in order to present your work to our compatriots and to the visitors of our village in the summer, either through an exhibition of your creations, or through a cultural action.
Contact now at the Karyates Association email address karyates.association@karyes.gr,
or at the phones (+30) 6944-784563, 6974-720909.

REQUEST

Those who wish to receive this news bulletin via e-mail, please inform us by sending your e-mail address at our e-mail address:
karyates.association@karyes.gr

Karyes Kindergarten

As we wrote in the previous issue, the entire Local Community of Karyes celebrates the reopening of the school and specifically the Kindergarten of Karyes.



Galaxy A55 5G

In this context, the Karyes Local Community Council would like to thank the Municipality of Sparta and in particular the Deputy Mayors **Mr. Theofanis Lazaris** and **Mr. Panagiotis Pavlis**, the **Pan. Kerchoulas Trust**, the **Karyes Cultural Club** and the **"Karyatis" Sports Club** who helped ensure that the premises were quickly prepared and welcomed the young pupils.

It also wants to thank those who helped prepare the second room, the one that houses the All-Day (afternoon Kindergarten), and specifically the Municipality of Sparta, which supplied the paints, and the compatriot from Canada, **Mr. Stavros Dalakouras**, who covered the painting cost of € 550.00.

School Festivals

After years, school celebrations took place again at the Karyes school by the children of the kindergarten.



Galaxy A55 5G

In the presence of many residents of the village, both the NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE "ohi" OF 1940 and the Christmas were celebrated. The Christmas gifts to the children were offered by the Vicar of Karyes, Father Leontios, and the Church Council.



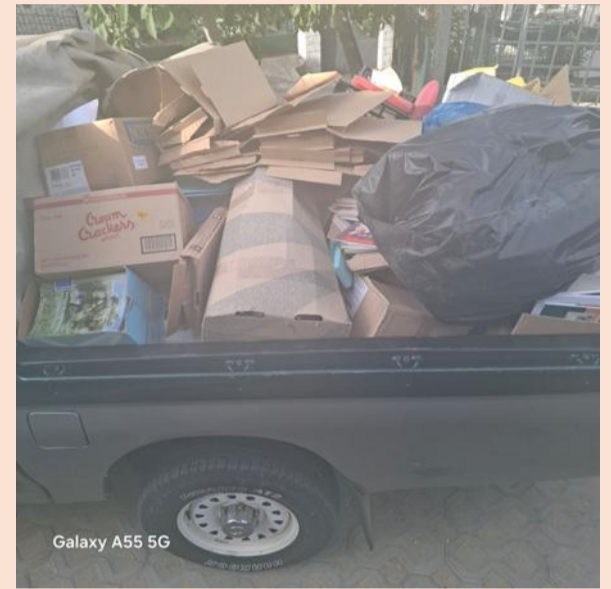
Galaxy A55 5G



Galaxy A55 5G

Cleaning and renovation of the School Event Hall

After years of abandonment and thanks to the initiative of the couple **Theodoros and Eleni Mentis**, the cleaning of the space began in September and continued at a steady pace. This is a very difficult task since the space had been abandoned for decades. At the same time, there was a lot of educational, and not only material, inside it, which had to be carefully inventoried and evaluated, in order to decide what was worth saving and restoring. Subsequently, and after the removal of the materials, the cleaning of the space followed.



Galaxy A55 5G

The goal, once the relevant funding is found, is for the space to be beautified and used for cultural events and theatrical performances, given that it has a very large capacity.

"Broom" operation for bulky objects

The Cleaning Service crews have launched a new cleaning and bulky object removal intervention in the Communities of the Municipality of Sparta. These are the Communities of Karyes and Kalloni, where some people have been discarding bulky objects for years, instead of informing the Municipality about their removal.

In both Karyes and Kalloni, the Service's crews removed the materials that had been discarded and cleaned the specific areas. In Karyes where the disposal was taking place alongside the road, two information signs were placed prohibiting the throwing of garbage and bulky objects. At the same time, the Service proceeded to make openings in the soil, in order to plant trees at a later stage.

It is recalled that the crews of competent Service are always available for anyone wishing to dispose of bulky objects, i.e. old furniture, mattresses, appliances, and even cut branches, both in the city of Sparta and in all the Communities. The interested party only has to contact the Service at **2731-023241** and **2731-089300**, in order to schedule their collection, which usually takes place within a few days.



The photos on the right show the situation before and after the restoration of the space.

Good news:

After years a permanent rural doctor in Karyes

The Karyes Local Community is in a position to announce the good news of filling the vacant position of Rural Doctor in Karyes for a number of years.

In fact, due to his imminent arrival, the Karyes Local Community proceeds with the renovation of the rural clinic of Karyes with the help of our **Mr. Stavros K. Dalakouras**, an expatriate from Canada.

The final cost will be announced in the next issue given that the work is ongoing.

Two beautiful initiatives by the Karyes Local Community

Night Lighting



Another landscaping project has begun in Karyes and concerns night lighting. After the two illuminated spots those of the **Caryatid Monuments at the expense of the Karyates Association and the Municipal Clock at the expense of the Kerchoulas Trust**, at the initiative of the Community, the lighting project of the **stone-built Deiros River Bridge and the two statues of the Muses** began.

The project was made possible thanks to the kind sponsorship of our compatriots from Canada, **Mr. George Pan. Darnos**, and from Melbourne, Australia, **Ms. Eleni (Lela) Kordari, née Panagiotis Th. Darnos**.

The compatriots paid the total cost of € 2,350.00 in memory of **Panagiotis Th. Darnos, Anna P. Darnos and Marigoula Bobou, née Nikolaos Kolovos**.



At the same time, it is planned, at the expense of the **Karyes Cultural Club**, to illuminate the **Statue of Liberty** in Central Square.



Street Name Signs Re-Installation

A nice initiative by the Karyes Local Community took place in October. Specifically, the street name signs were reinstalled on the main roads of the settlement.



The names had already been given since the **early 1970s, by decision of the then Karyes Community** with the aim of honoring benefactors of the village and highlighting the history of the place and the country. However, over the years, most of them had fallen or been destroyed. However, the relevant documents existed and based on them, the project progressed.

The Karyes Local Community warmly thanks **George Pan. Diantzikis**, our compatriot who lives in Chicago Illinois, U.S.A., who covered the financial cost of their purchase and the volunteers who undertook their installation.



Municipality of Sparta: Provision of medical care to remote communities and to those in need.

A joint action for those of our fellow citizens who reside in remote areas of the Municipality and do not have easy access to medical care was developed by the **Community Center and the "Home Help" of the Municipality of Sparta, in collaboration with a team from the National Organization for Public Health (E.O.D.Y.)**.

Throughout the week from Monday, November 3rd to Friday, November 7th, the scientific staff of the Community Center and the EODY, in the presence of the competent **Deputy Mayor for Social Policy, Education and Public Administration of Mystras, Mr. Theofanis Lazaris and the Municipal Councilor for Welfare, Mr. Georgios Koulouvakos** visited



the Communities of Karyes, Logganikos, Sellasia, Soustiani and Gorani.

They conducted home visits, examining patients who are unable to move, as well as residents, who came to the community stores, gave their medical history and underwent tests, such as measuring vital signs, calculating body mass index and registering for the physical prescription.

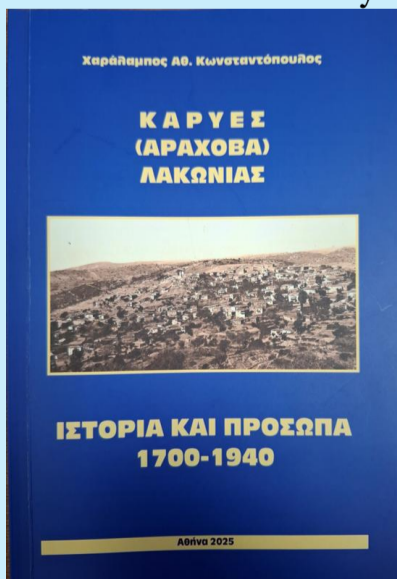
It should be noted that the visits of the teams also continued in the Communities of Lefkochooma, Chrysafo and Goritsa respectively.

The Board of Directors of the **G.T. SKIOURIS Foundation** wishes all compatriots **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



BOOKS AVAILABLE OF THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION

Availability of **Charalambos Konstantopoulos' book "Karyes (Arachova) Laconia History and People 1700-1940"**



The book by the Secretary of the Karyates Association **Haris Konstantopoulos**, published this summer, was embraced by all patriots and not only.

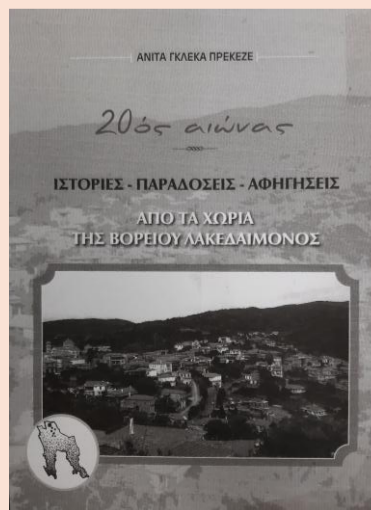
Its pages present the entire history of Karyes as well as the personalities who, with their work and contributions, marked the place.

The first edition is almost sold out, and all proceeds go to the Association's purposes.

Copies of this important book can be obtained from all members of the Association's Board of Directors.

For more information, please call **6974-720909** or email **karyates.association@karyes.gr**

Availability of **Annita Gleka-Prekeze's book "20th century, Stories, Traditions, Narratives from the villages of North Lacedaemon"**



This book, which was published two years ago, with the kind sponsorship of the Municipality of Sparta and our expatriates **Panos and Voula Kopsiaftis**, is the work of the well-known author **Anita V. Prekeze (née Glekas)**. The author dedicated this book to the Karyates Association whose she has been a key supporter for many years.

The first edition was sold out, since the books became literally rapturous and well-loved. The Association proceeded to a second edition.

Copies of this important book can be obtained from all members of the Board of the Association. More information at tel. **0030-6985-120559**, or at **karyates.association@karyes.gr**



ADELPHOTIS ARACHOVITON "AE KARYAE" TORONTO CANADA

Annual Action Report 2025

The Canadian Adelphotis in Toronto Ontario, always strong, keeps the flame of Greece and Karyes alive.

With a series of events centered mainly on the privately owned "KARYES" Park, Adelphotis mobilize young and old Greek Canadians to meet and have fun in Greek style.

In a previous issue, we wrote about the "MAKARONADA" carnival event. In today's tribute, we record the remaining events of 2025:

- the "OPENING" of the park in May,
- the preparation and organization of the two-day "PANIGHYRI / FAIR" at the end of July and
- the autumn gathering for the "CLOSING" of the park.

At the same time, we are also publishing photos of the maintenance projects that our compatriots have voluntarily carried out in order to make the park functional for all visitors. Once again, warm congratulations to the Board of Directors of the Adelphotis, its members and friends.

The tribute concludes with photos from the Christmas children's party, which, like every year, was organized a few days ago.

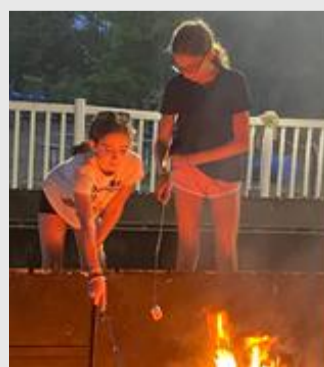
THE PARK OPENING MAY 25, 2025



THE PREPARATION FOR THE PANIGHYRI



PANIGHYRI'S FIRST DAY





ADELPHOTIS ARACHOVITON "AE KARYAE" TORONTO CANADA

Annual Action Report 2025

PANIGHYRI'S SECOND DAY



RENOVATION WORKS AT THE PARK, END OF AUGUST



The Adelphotis of Arachovites "AI KARYAI"
Toronto Canada
Wishes all patriots a happy new year





THE PARK'S CLOSING, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY



"KARYATIS"

Sports Club»

wishes all compatriots Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



The village of Karyes has been decorated and waiting for you for the Christmas Holidays



They passed away

Dimitrios Barlas, aged 86
passed away on **August 28, 2025**
in **Maryland, USA.**

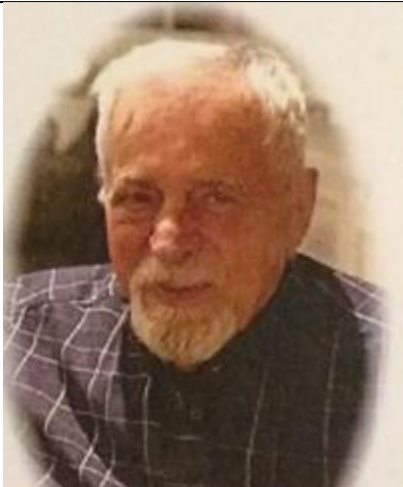
His funeral took place in Karyes on September 26, 2025 at the Church of Agia Paraskevi and his burial in the cemetery there.

Dimitrios Kaperonis, aged 90,
passed away on **October 9, 2025** in **Sparta**

His funeral took place in Karyes on October 12, 2025 at the Church of Agia Paraskevi and his burial in the cemetery there.

Apostolos Prevezanos, aged 78, resident of Karyes
passed away on **December 12, 2025**

Beloved Apostolis was the husband of Eleni Kardara. His funeral took place in Karyes on December 15, 2025 at the Church of Agia Paraskevi and his burial in the cemetery there.



John Diamandouros, aged 88
passed away on **October 10, 2025**
in **Canada**



Sofia Skiouri passed away on
November 16, 2025
in **Canada**
at the age of **65**



Stamatiki widow of Georgios Darnos
from **Dafni, Laconia** aged **92**
passed away on **September 13, 2025**
in **Melbourne, Australia**



Andreas (Andrew) P. Matalas passed away on **November 11, 2025** in **Arlington Heights, Illinois, USA** at the age of **95.**

He was born in Karyes on July 20, 1931 and was the son of Panagiotis Matalas and Xanthi Prekeze. He was part of a family of five children who had the misfortune of losing their mother at the beginning of the Italian and German occupation when the deceased was 10 years old. At the age of 19 in 1950 he emigrated to the USA along with the huge wave of post-war immigration from Karyes where approximately 700 young people took the path of immigration since life in the burnt-out Arachova was very difficult. He settled at first in Columbia, North Carolina and then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he worked hard in restaurants and hotels to help his siblings Eleni, Dimitra (Toula), Paraskevas and Haido.

On May 9, 1964, he married the love of his life, Diana née Carras, and together they lived 61 wonderful years of marriage, creating a beautiful life filled with faith, love, and laughter. He was the founder and former president of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Palatine, Illinois, a role that reflected his deep faith and dedication to his community. He gave his whole heart to the church he helped build and treasured the relationships formed there. One of his most cherished experiences was traveling with Diane and their church community on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He was a devoted husband and a loving father to Peter and his wife Amy, Heidi and Maria wife of Dino Bolos. To his grandchildren - Alexandra, Diana, Andrew, Petros, Athena, Andreas B., Leo (Leonidas), Andreas M., Christina and Jerome - he was "Grandpa", a source of wisdom, humor and boundless affection.

Our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased.

THANK YOY NOTE

The families of Dimitrios and Nikolaos G. Trakas

thank all those who have donated wreaths or money to the Karyes Center for Memory and Culture and the Karyes Fire Department, in Memory of their Mother Konstantina (Dina)

A great success: The "MOLON LAVE" rally

from 2026 is part of the program of the Panhellenic Dirt Track Championship



The announcement of the **Motor Sports Federation (O.M.A.E.)** for the 2026 racing program brings a great moment to Laconia: the MOLON LAVE Rally is included for the first time in the Panhellenic Dirt Rally Championship, gaining a place among the most important races in the country.

The championship in which the race is now included is no coincidence: it is the largest and highest-level rally event in Greece, with the best racing cars and the top Greek drivers fighting the battle of the year. Their participation in **MOLON LAVE 2026** is expected to spectacularly upgrade the level of competition and offer images corresponding to major international events.

A key element for the Championship race to be held in Sparta was the positive attitude of **Mayor Michalis Vakalopoulos**, who had been discussing with the Motorized Sports Federation (O.M.A.E.) for some time now about this race on the historic grounds of Mount Parnon.

Arachova (Karyes) – The hospitality that wins over competitors

The hospitable village of **Arachova (Karyes)** is a constant ally of the race. The residents, the local entrepreneurship and the warm Laconian hospitality have become a point of reference in the impressions of the crews. The participants speak in the best words about the area, its infrastructure, its natural beauty and the impeccable cooperation that they find every year in this place.

Karyes, built in one of the most beautiful spots of Parnon, gives MOLON LAVE a unique character – a combination of tradition and modern racing culture.

Strong attendance of spectators – The Laconian people embrace the racing event

The crowd that gathers every year in Laconia to watch the race is one of the biggest pillars of its success. The Laconians have proven that they support the institution with passion, while each year there is an increasing attendance of spectators from the entire Peloponnese and beyond. For 2026, the upgrade to a Championship race is expected to further strengthen this momentum.

Source: LAKONIA TV

KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

For information E-mail: karyates.association@karyes.gr