



WORLD COUNCIL OF CRETANS

Nikos Kastrinakis

Nikos Kastrinakis was born and raised in Chania, Crete. He studied Programming and Analysis in Athens, pursued undergraduate studies in Information Systems Management at the City University of New York, and earned a graduate degree in Engineering Management from Long Island University C.W. Post. He lives and works in the New York metropolitan area.

Since his student years, he has been an active member of the Greek-American community. He has served as President of the historic Cretan Association of New York “Omonoia,” (UNITY) as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, and as a member of the committee responsible for organizing New York City’s annual Greek Independence Day Parade on Fifth Avenue.

He has also been actively involved with the Pan Cretan Association of America (PAA) since 1997, serving as Chair of the Public Relations Committee (2001–2005), Chair of the Committee for the Association’s 75th Anniversary Commemorative Publication (2005), Vice President of Communications (2009–2011), and General Supervisor (2021–2025). Since 2025, he has served as the Association’s Executive Vice President.

Since August 2024, following the unanimous nomination of the Pan Cretan Association of America and the unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the World Council of Cretans, he has served as President of the Council. Founded in 2003, the World Council of Cretans is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and cultural heritage of Crete and Greece and transmitting that heritage both to younger generations and to the communities throughout the world in which Cretans live and contribute. Its member organizations include the Pan Cretan Association of America, the Cretan Federation of Australia and New Zealand, the Pan Cretan Federation of Europe, the Pan Cretan Union of Athens, the Pan Cretan Brotherhood of Macedonia, the Cretan Brotherhood of Piraeus “Omonoia,” and the Pan Cretan Union of South Africa.

Inspired by Eleftherios Venizelos, Kastrinakis has studied his life and work extensively and has delivered numerous lectures on Venizelos in both Greece and the United States. He was a member of the committee responsible for locating and acquiring the historic Packard automobile now exhibited at the Museum of the Eleftherios K. Venizelos National Research Foundation at Venizelos's residence in Chalepa, Chania. He also played a leading role in raising the funds necessary for the publication in English of the two-volume biography of Eleftherios Venizelos. A longstanding supporter of the National Research Foundation "Eleftherios K. Venizelos," he has been named an Associate of the Foundation in recognition of his contributions. He also serves as President of the Foundation's American Branch.

With more than thirty years of experience in the software industry, Kastrinakis has held leadership positions in several multibillion-dollar Fortune 500 companies. He has built and led high-performing teams, transforming innovative ideas into successful software solutions serving millions of users worldwide.

He often says, "Individuals play the game, but teams win when the odds of success are small." He is committed to living his life by selflessly helping those around him advance and grow. Among the principles that guide him are sayings attributed to Socrates—"Let him who would move the world first move himself"—and Aristotle—"Happiness involves engaging in activities that promote our highest potential." This philosophy underlies his continuing commitment to personal transformation and transformational education.

He is Chief of Staff and a facilitator of experiential Leadership and Transformation seminars at Synergy Education. He is married and the father of two children, Theodora and Aristides. His wife is an officer in the Fire Service and holds the rank of Fire Commander.