



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER NO. 14

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ISCA Headquarters:

Renata Marinelli

Largo Leone XII

60040 Genga

Ancona, Italy

renatamarinelli@libero.it

Tel: + (39) 0732 972108

Fax: + (39) 0732 972107

Office of the President:

David Summers

P.O. Box HM1373

Hamilton HMFx

Bermuda

dsummers@bcec.bm

Tel: 441-295-1700

Fax: 441-295-7642

TRAGIC NEWS



It is with tremendous amount of sadness and regret that I must advise you that Gianni (John) Zalavras, the Manager of Perama Cave in Ioannina, Greece, has been killed. I am advised that on Monday 26th November 2012, a man walked into the offices of the Perama Cave and killed Gianni by gun shots. The murderer then killed himself. All that is known about the killer at this time is that he worked at the Municipality of Ioannina, had psychological problems, was drinking and 55 years old.

Giannis was 35 years old and leaves a wife and a 4 year old son. Gianni's wife is a teacher. Gianni was buried on Tuesday 27th November 2012.

Many of our members will remember Gianni from ISCA meetings of past years. Those who attended the recently concluded Conference 2012, held in Greece and Turkey, will certainly remember him as he was instrumental in organizing the Greek portion of the Conference.

We have all lost a great friend and colleague as a result of this heinous crime. A young man filled with such promise in a person so young. Our association has lost a tremendous ambassador and the loss to his family and Perama Cave is simply enormous.

I have written a formal condolence letter to Gogos on behalf of ISCA, but it was not possible to say everything that I wanted to say in such a letter. A copy of this letter is attached.

Many of you, who are already aware of this tragedy, have asked that there be some way that we can help the family of Giannis through these dark times. In response to this, we are setting up an account, that those of you wishing to donate money to such a fund, may do so.

Having regard for the practices around the world, it seems that I am in one of the best countries to do this, without having excessive charges being applied to the account.

I have consequently opened a US dollar account with a Bermuda bank entitled the “David Summers Giannis Memorial Fund”. The name of this account is solely to facilitate the opening of the account and withdrawal from it. Carol Lisa Roberts, my Administrative Assistant, is also a signatory and is named on this account. This account will be able to accept euros and other currencies together with wire transfers. Information regarding this account, including wire transfer data, will be provided in a subsequent President’s Newsletter to be sent out in the very near future.

The method that is intended to be used to operate this account, is that the identity of the donors and the amount of donations will only be known by Renata and myself. The total amount in the fund will be shared with Heinz and Brad each month, just in the event that something happens to me.

It is my plan to personally take the amount collected, either in cash or such a medium as traveller’s cheques, to Ioannina in January or February 2013. It is hoped that this personal delivery will initiate, or spur, further donations in the Ioannina area.

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