

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

El Camino Real District #20
Southern California, Arizona, Las Vegas, NV, Hawaii
Christine Markos, District Governor
December 2017 - Bulletin # 1

Dear Sisters,

Thank you for the honor of electing me a second time as your District Governor! The Daughters of Penelope holds a very special place in my heart and I am extremely proud to once again represent our district. I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

I am pleased to announce our district's officers for 2017-2018:

Cathy Keyser	Lt. Governor
Sofie Batshoun	Secretary
Mary Bowen	Treasurer
Adrienne Bell	Marshall
Rena Bornstein	Maids of Athena District Advisor
Niki Pallas	District Advisor

As most of you know, the District Convention this past June was held at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, California. We were honored to have then Ahepa Supreme Secretary and current Supreme President Carl Hollister and Daughters of Penelope Grand Secretary Diane Petersen in attendance. As chairperson I would like to thank Alex Soles and the entire committee for their hard work and dedication in helping me put on such a wonderful event. The venue was beautiful and everyone had a great time! Congratulations to Alex Soles for being re-elected as Ahepa District Governor!

Convention highlights included the DOP honoring three of our own:

- Stacey J. Griebe from Chandler, Arizona was elected District 20 Penelope of The Year! Each year our district elects a recipient who is recognized as an outstanding Daughter of Penelope, who excels in contributions and service to the Daughters of Penelope, as well as having participated significantly in the Greek Community, to civic and charitable organizations, to various civic endeavors, and has served and provided unselfish assistance to the Daughters of Penelope and her community. **Congratulations Stacey** and thank you for all your hard work!

- Sister Elaine Kitros celebrated her 100th birthday this past January!! Elaine was initiated into the Daughters of Penelope in **1941**, was a founding member of the Hyperia #94 Ventura chapter, a two time District Governor for our district and a national office holder
- Sister Demetra Gallanes is 94 years young and joined the Daughters of Penelope on June 22, **1937**. We celebrated her **80th** anniversary as a member of the DOP! Sister Demetra was our District Governor from 1991 to 1992. Demetra served as President of the Amphitrite #151 San Bernardino chapter for over 68 years and has been involved on both the District and National levels
- Guide Dogs of America will remain our District Project
- Chapter of the Year was awarded to Arrowhead Chapter #302 from San Bernardino
- Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Peter G. Palmer from Chapter 219 Phoenix
- Scholarship Committee gave out \$25,000 in Scholarships to deserving young adults
- Wynn Storton was unanimously chosen as District 20 AHEPAN OF THE YEAR

Supreme Convention: This year the DOP celebrated our 87th anniversary at the annual AHEPA Family Supreme Convention at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Everyone in attendance raved about the fantastic time they had! I am pleased to announce that the delegates of the Supreme Convention of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP) elected Eva Jean Fomalont Grand President for 2017-2018. We congratulate our new Grand President and salute her many accomplishments.

In addition to Grand President Fomalont, the following individuals were elected to the Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge:

- Grand Vice President Demi Thomas of Ridgewood, NJ;
- Grand Secretary Celia Kachmarski of Calgary, AB, Canada;
- Grand Treasurer Kathy Bizoukas of Munster, IN;
- Grand Governor Zone I Georgette Boulegeris of Bedminster, NJ;
- Grand Governor Zone II Stella Sirks of Orlando, FL;
- Grand Governor Zone III Demi Cross of Cheyenne, WY;
- Grand Governor Zone IV Marianthi Treppiedi of Spokane, WA;
- Grand Governor Zone V Dimitra Vassilas of Vancouver, BC, Canada;
- and Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena Charrie Regopoulos of Spingsboro, OH.

Grand Governor Zone III Demi Cross will also serve as our District Liaison and we are most grateful for her support. Please be sure to include her on your Chapter bulletins and other communications. Demi's e-mail is: dopgrandgovernor3@gmail.com and her address is 5409 Ryan Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82009 Cell: (307) 286-2607.

Congratulations to *Barbara Maligas of Houston, Texas* who was honored as 2017-2018 Penelope of the Year! Sister Barbara has a long and impressive list of accomplishments.

Activities: In September I had the privilege of attending the District Governor Conference in Washington DC. It was exciting to see that our newly elected Grand Lodge was full of enthusiasm and works extremely well together. What a fantastic group of strong and dedicated women!

On Saturday, October 7th I attended the Ventura Ahepa Family Fundraiser Barbecue at St. Demetrios in Camarillo. This annual event benefits the local scholarship fund. Our brother Ahepan Jim Dimitriou gave an enlightening update on the current situation in Greece and Cypress. The Greek dance group from St. Demetrios entertained us with a performance and the food was delicious!

On Thursday, October 12th MOA Grand President Sophia Shakolas, DOP District 20 Secretary Sofia Batshoun, AHEPA District 20 DG Alex Soles and Anaheim AHEPA Chapter 411 President Mike Vino attended a MAIDS of ATHENA Chapter meeting in Anaheim and we are proud to announce that Anaheim Zoe Chapter 167 has been reinstated! Wonderful news and welcome to all the new initiates!

On October 14th we hosted the first annual El Camino Real District 20 Fall Leadership workshop at St. Sophia Cathedral. We were honored to have Six National Lodge Officers in attendance. Thank you to Carl Hollister-Supreme President, Jimmy Kokotas-Supreme Secretary, George Booras-Supreme Governor Region 8, Demi Cross-DOP Grand Governor Zone III, Bill Poulos III-SOP Supreme President, Sophia Shakolas-MOA Grand President for graciously attending and making this event successful. Everyone was grateful for the opportunity to ask a variety of questions and receive answers from the Supreme and Grand Lodge members. We all agreed on the importance of everyone assisting in starting new Maids of Athena and Sons of Pericles chapters. The evening ended with a delicious lamb dinner and an awards ceremony.

A highlight for me this holiday season was the annual Christmas fundraiser luncheon hosted by the Alkandre and Melita chapters on December 10th to benefit the Penelope House and Penelope's Place. A festive atmosphere and good food was topped off by the Greek School singing Christmas Carols (Kalanda)! Please consider putting this on your calendar for next year since all proceeds go to a very worthy cause.

In Memoriam: This fall was an extremely sad and hard time for many of us in District 20. We lost our dear Sister Mary Hochberger, an active member of the Ventura Hyperia chapter #94. Mary was initiated in 1962 and also served as a past District Lodge officer in 1985. A few weeks later we lost the always smiling and cheerful Barbara Kokkinis, another active and dedicated Sister from the Hyperia chapter. As if that wasn't enough, we were all heartbroken in November at the sudden passing of Fay Lyons, the long time President of the Alkandre Chapter #43 here in Los Angeles. These women were strong, courageous and the epitome of what the Daughters of Penelope stands for.

Lastly, our hearts go out to Cathy Keyser, our Lt. Governor, who lost her mother MaryAnn Chiros on November 30th. Cathy, you were the best daughter anyone could ever ask for! We love you!

Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of our dear Sisters. May their memories be eternal.

Upcoming Events:

Mid-Winter Conference: Our **District Mid-Winter Conference** will be held in San Bernardino, California on **Saturday, January 27, 2018**. The Ahepa Arrowhead Chapter 302 and the Daughters of Penelope Amphitrite #151 have been working diligently to make this a wonderful and successful event. Please make every effort to join us for the conference, which will include a continental breakfast, lunch and a special tour of the Ahepa Housing. I have arranged for a guest speaker for our afternoon session that hopefully will inspire us to continue to support our philanthropic mission. Please consider placing an ad in the conference program book. **Registration is online now** on the District 20 Ahepa website [www.http://ahepadistrict20.org/](http://ahepadistrict20.org/).

District Raffle: At this time of year, we once again promote our district with our annual raffle fundraiser. By now, your chapter should have received the raffle tickets which were mailed to each chapter, PDG, officers and Ahepa chapters by District Lt. Governor, Cathy Keyser. Please purchase the tickets at \$5.00 each as a chapter or sell them to support our District and submit payment and stubs in the postage paid envelope provided before January 27, 2018. If more tickets are needed, please let Cathy or me know. The cash prizes are \$250, \$150 and \$100 and the drawing will be at the Mid-Winter Conference in January in San Bernardino. Winner need not be present to win.

Western Regional District Convention: SAVE THE DATES – JUNE 21-24, 2018! Make plans to attend our Biennial Multi-District Convention in Reno, NV where you can meet and share ideas with fellow AHEPA Family members from Districts 17, 20, 21 and 22, encompassing CO, ID, NM, WY, AZ, CA, HI, UT, NV, OR, WA, and AK. The WRDC is once again being held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa and the planning committee is busy making sure that it will be a spectacular event. Info/Registration online at ahepa-wrdc.org.

Supreme Convention: The AHEPA Family Supreme Convention 2018 will convene the week of July 22nd at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, NJ. Mark your calendar!

District and National Obligations: Please note that 2017 national obligations are due by December 31, 2017. Chapters can remit payment via check or via our new membership system.

Visitations and District Lodge Support: I will be contacting each chapter soon so that we could set up a visitation schedule. Send me advance information on upcoming chapter events, photos and activities so they can be included on our Facebook page and shared as appropriate in future monthly bulletins.

Don't forget to visit our District and National Websites and Facebook pages for a wealth of information.

District 20 Website www.dopdistrict20.org/

National Websites www.daughtersofpenelope.org/
<https://ahepa.org/>

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DOPDistrict20>

Please do not hesitate to contact me at chrismarkos@sbcglobal.net or at (818) 613-7588.

Wishing you a very **Happy New Year** filled with love, health and happiness. I look forward to seeing you on **January 27th at our Mid Winter Conference!**

In Theta Pi,

Christine Markos

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District Governor