

# *Daughters of Penelope*

## **EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT #20**

WESTERN REGIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTION - DISTRICTS 17, 20, 21, and 22

**JUNE 19 – 22, 2014**

**RENO, NEVADA**

### **JUNE 20, 2014: JOINT SESSION – ALL ORDERS – OPENING CEREMONIES**

Opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, introductions of Supreme and Grand Lodge Officers, District Officers of the AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles, and Maids of Athena were observed.

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014 DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE BUSINESS SESSION:**

1:25 p.m. District Governor Niki Pallas opened the afternoon Business Session by welcoming all delegates to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual District Convention. Grand Secretary and District #20 Liaison Connie Pilallis was escorted to the dais and the official opening of the 2014 District Convention began.

#### **Opening prayer was observed.**

**Memorial service** was observed for members who are now in Memory Chapter. They are: Despina Elias, Theseus #88; Estelle Skouras, Melita #119; Amelia Skoutaris, Melita #119; Frances Daskalakis, Aegina #340; and Mary van den Raadt, Philia #380.

**Past District Governors** in attendance were introduced. They are: Catherine Vackrinos, Minos #159; Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340; Elaine Hatupis, Aegina #340; Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 and Magdalene Thomas, Aegina #340.

#### **Appointment of Sentinel and Tellers:**

Sentinel: Kathy Keyser, Aegina #340.

Tellers: Magdalene Thomas, PDG, Aegina #340; and Adrienne Bell, Philia #380.

**Roll call of delegates** by District Secretary Kathy Keyser, with Voting Strength noted at 14.

**Election of Convention Officers** was held with these results: Convention Chairman Carol Stathopoulos, PDG, Aegina #340, nominated by Catherine Vackrinos, PDG, Minos #159; Convention Vice-Chairman Jeanette Rigopoulos, Philia #380, nominated by Elaine Hatupis, PDG Aegina #340 and Convention Secretary, Catherine Vackrinos, PDG, Minos #159, nominated by Georgia Souris, PDG, Aegina #340.

**Oath of Office of Convention Officers** was administered by District Governor Niki Pallas, and Convention Officers assumed their chairs.

Convention Chairman Carol Stathopoulos, appointed Georgia Souris, PDG, Aegina #340, as Parliamentarian. Carol Stathopoulos also appointed Niki Pallas, District Governor, as DOP/AHEPA Liaison.

M/S by Georgia Souris, PDG, Aegina #340 / Elaine Hatupis, PDG, Aegina #340 to adopt the Convention Agenda with changes as needed. Motion carried.

District Governor Niki Pallas moved to adopt the 2013 District Convention Minutes with corrections noted. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Announcement of Committee Chairs and Meeting Times were acknowledged. District Governor Niki Pallas reminded delegates only one person per chapter may attend the Penelope of the year committee.

#### **CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION CITIES FOR 2015:**

Palm Springs AHEPA chapter will host District Conference on Saturday, January 24, 2015. District Convention will be hosted by AHEPA Tri-Cities Chapter #454 and Daughters of Penelope, Aegina #340 chapter of Chandler, Arizona.

Convention Chairman Carol Stathopoulos opened a discussion regarding our delegates' opinion/s on whether we do or do not support the idea of having a Multi-District Convention Bi-annually. Cathy Keyser moved DOP would support and participate in a Multi-District Convention, if held. It was seconded and the motion carried.

#### **DISTRICT PROJECT:**

Committee Chairman Catherine Vackrinos, PDG, Minos #159. Committee members: Elaine Hatupis, PDG, Aegina #340 and Georgia Pappas, Minos #159, agreed that Guide Dogs of America should remain as our District Project for another year.

#### **WAYS AND MEANS – OPEN FORUM:**

Jeanette Rigopoulos spoke of Philia #380's plans to host a fund raiser, namely a "Chili Cook-Off" whereby the members (and others) of their AHEPA chapter will cook the chili. A nominal fee will be charged in order to encourage families to participate in and attend the event.

#### **GRIEVANCE:**

There were no Grievances received, but a lively discussion was held regarding the fact that it would be advantageous for chapter Presidents and Secretaries to receive a hard copy of District Governor's bulletins on a monthly basis or as often as the current District Governor chooses to send her bulletin via the internet.

#### **LEGISLATION:**

There were no legislative items received, but a discussion was held regarding our District Mandate that each delegate pays \$5.00 for the Convention Agenda Book. Motion carried to eliminate the \$5.00 fee, but if a delegate lost her Convention Agenda Book and requested another, she would then pay a nominal fee for the second Convention Agenda Book.

#### **GROWTH AND EXPANSION:**

After welcoming Grand Vice-President Anna Helene Grossomanidis into the convention room, she spoke about her role and evaluation of how to increase chapter membership, encourage those more reluctant members to participate in chapter and district events, chair events, etc.

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/WEB SITE:**

Grand Secretary Connie Pilallis, spoke about an email that was sent to her noting the passing of a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, titled "Violence Against Women Act" (HR4660) by a vote of 321 – 87. A discussion was held regarding the issue.

#### **HISTORIAN:**

Chairman Carol Stathopoulos spoke of the collection of photos and memorabilia she has received for the past several years from various Daughters of Penelope chapters and individual members. She would appreciate members remembering those in the various photos, in order to put names to faces. This is a daunting undertaking, since many of our mature members are gone, but Carol will attempt to follow through with her plans.

Afternoon session recessed at 3:45 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2014 – MORNING BUSINESS SESSION:**

Chairman Carol Stathopoulos called Convention meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**Roll call of delegates** conducted by District Secretary, Kathy Keyser. Voting strength was 13.

Chairman Carol Stathopoulos relinquished the gavel to Vice-Chairman Jeanette Rigopoulos, who called upon District Governor Niki Pallas to render her year-end report.

**MAIDS OF ATHENA:**

Kathy Keyser, District #20 Maids of Athena Advisor, introduced Angela Armstrong, Grand President of Maids of Athena, who then introduced Sofie Batshoun, Grand Governor, Maids of Athena, who spoke of her travels and involvement with the MOA's this past year. A question and answer session was held. District Governor Niki Pallas, along with Fay Lyons, Alkandre #43, presented a check to Angela Armstrong and Sofie Batshoun for the current National Project of the MOA – Fredricks Atoxia Research Alliance. Angela then spoke about the Maids of Athena and their issues and programs.

**CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION CITIES:**

Ahepan Pete Souris entered our meeting room to give delegates an update on District Conference and Convention cities for 2015. He stated District Conference will be hosted by AHEPA Palm Springs chapter on Saturday, January 24, 2015 and District Convention will be hosted by AHEPA Tri-Cities Chapter #454 and Daughters of Penelope Aegina Chapter #340 in Arizona, June 11, 12, 13, 2015. District Convention registration is currently set at \$150.00 and hotel rates are currently set at \$88.00. (These rates are subject to change.)

**JOINT MORNING SESSION WITH BROTHER AHEPANS: 10:30 A.M.**

Chairman Carol Stathopoulos recessed our meeting in order to meet with our Brother AHEPAN's for a joint session. The El Camino Real District 20 AHEPA Scholarship Foundation Annual Meeting was called to order by President Brent Noyes. (Minutes attached) The joint session was recessed for the combined districts Scholarship Luncheon.

**AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION – SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2014**

Chairman Carol Stathopoulos called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and asked for voting strength. District Secretary Kathy Keyser, reported a **voting strength of 16**.

**DISTRICT PENELOPE OF THE YEAR:**

Georgia Souris, PDG, Chairman. Committee members: Jeanette Rigopoulos and Catherine Vackrinos, PDG. Chairman Souris received one application for District Penelope of the Year and after reading the qualifications, the committee made a unanimous declaration in favor of Elaine Hatupis, PDG, and Aegina #340 as District 20 Penelope of the Year. District Governor Niki Pallas gave Elaine the District Penelope of the Year pin. Congratulations and applause followed.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

Elaine Hatupis, PDG, Chairman. Committee members: Carol Stathopoulos, PDG, Magdalene Thomas, PDG, and Christine Markos. A review of the checking account ledger and bank statements found the account to be balanced and in order. Checking Account Balance as of June 19, 2014 is: \$2,803.47. Two transactions were questioned regarding payment rationale. This involves payment for a District Lodge visitation to the Los Angeles area which was combined with a tour of the Getty Museum Icon Exhibit. After much discussion both pro and

con, the issue was resolved by a vote of the delegation to let the payment stand. Another issue regarding a mandatory obligation for chapters to pay a \$50.00 yearly District Website fee was then discussed. As there has been no billing statement to request any payment to the owner of the server for the original website, and there is no current, active District 20 DOP Website, the Audit Committee recommended discontinuing this mandatory obligation. Motion carried. For future reference, a motion carried to rename Public Relations/Communications/Website to Public Relations/Communications/Publications.

The District Certificate of Deposit (CD) was another issue presented by the Audit Committee. The District Lodge had closed a CD and moved the balance to a savings account on advice of a banker. This was done without approval of a convention body. A motion carried authorizing the District Lodge to remove the CD amount from the savings account and place it in a CD instrument, should interest rates become favorable.

#### **BUDGET:**

Chairman: Elaine Hatupis, PDG. Committee members: Jeanette Rigopoulos, Christine Markos, Catherine Vackrinis, PDG, and Valerie Katsikis, District Lt. Governor. Motion carried to accept the Budget as presented. (Budget Attached)

#### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF DISTRICT LODGE OFFICERS:**

Election Committee: Julie Karoutas and Sophia Pappas presented nominees for three offices:

District Governor: Valerie Katsikis

District Treasurer: Elaine Hatupis

District Advisor to Maids of Athena: Cathy Keyser

Nominations from the floor were received for the following offices:

District Lt. Governor: Christine Markos

Nominated by: Niki Pallas

District Secretary: Carol Stathopoulos

Nominated by: Catherine Vackrinis

District Marshal: Josephine Avaneas

Nominated by: Fay Lyons

Kelee Tsitsikaos

Nominated by: Cathy Keyser

A secret ballot for the position of District Marshal resulted in the election of Kelee Tsitsikaos. The ballots were destroyed and the Convention Chairman proclaimed the officers elected.

Niki Pallas, PDG, was recognized as District Advisor to the Daughters of Penelope.

**Oath of office** was administered by Grand Secretary Connie Pilallis.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Catherine Vackrinis thanked all Convention officers and delegates for a job well done.

\$80.00 collected from Agenda Books was given by check to Angela Armstrong for the Maids of Athena National Project **FARA** and was presented by District Governor Niki Pallas.

District Governor Niki Pallas acknowledged Grand Lodge officers: Kathryn Tripodes, Grand Governor, Zone II; Diane Peterson, Grand Governor, Zone IV, and Grand Vice-President Anna-Helene Grossomanidis. Diane Peterson announced that she is running for Grand Governor, Zone IV for a second term.

Grand Secretary Connie Pilallis thanked the delegates for an interesting District Convention.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

District Governor Niki Pallas gave a check to Grand Secretary Connie Pilallis to be given to District #20's Scholarship Foundation in her name.

District Governor Niki Pallas presented Certificates of Merit to Carol Stathopoulos, PDG, for serving as Convention Chairman; Valerie Katsikis for having served as District Lt. Governor; Magdalene Thomas having served as Daughters of Penelope District Advisor; Christine Markos for having served as District Lodge Treasurer; Kathy Keyser for having served as District Lodge Secretary and Advisor to the Maids of Athena; Josephine Avaneas for having served as District Lodge Marshal.

District Governor Niki Pallas also thanked Grand Secretary Connie Pilallis for the lovely Memorial Tablecloth.

Past District Governor's pin was presented to Niki Pallas from Valerie Katsikis and a District Governor's pin was presented to Valerie Katsikis from Niki Pallas for her upcoming term as Daughters of Penelope District Governor.

**Newly elected AHEPA District Governor Wynn Storton** spoke to the delegation briefly.

**Closing Prayer** was given by newly elected District Governor Valerie Katsikis.

**Daughters of Penelope El Camino Real District #20 Convention of 2014 adjourned at 5:30 p.m.**