



Daughters of Penelope
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Saltas Elected Grand President of Daughters of Penelope

Salt Lake City Native, Retired Educator Tapped to Lead DOP

WASHINGTON (August 16, 2012)—The Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a preeminent international women’s organization, elected Joanne Saltas, Salt Lake City, Utah, Grand President for the 2012-13 administrative year. Elections were held July 25, 2012 at the 90th Annual AHEPA Supreme Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

“It is an honor and a great thrill to be elected Grand President,” said Saltas, who is a member of Charai Chapter 79, Salt Lake City. “I look forward to working with the Grand Lodge and the membership to take our existing successful programs in education, philanthropy, and social services to greater levels to the benefit of the community.”

Saltas, a 38-year member of the Daughters of Penelope, has served all major positions at national, district, and chapter levels within the organization, including Grand Vice-President (2011-12) and all offices at the Grand Lodge level. In 2007, she was selected as National Penelope of the Year.

“I believe strongly in the philosophy of our organization’s founder, Alexandra Apostolides, who championed empowering women to be strong advocates for others and encouraged women to pursue ways to serve the broader community,” said Saltas. “The Daughters of Penelope provides these invaluable opportunities.”

The newly-elected grand president was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is a graduate of the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education and a Master’s degree in Computer Science. Although Saltas is now retired after a 30-year teaching career, she currently does part-time work for the University of Utah School of Medicine.

Saltas is also active in other community organizations. She is a member of the Philoptochos, and she is a past president of the local Pan Arcadian chapter.

The Salt Lake City native is the daughter of the late Paul and Sophie Saltas and has three married sisters, three nephews, one niece and one grandnephew. Saltas is a dog mom many times over.



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2012-13 Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge

Elected to the Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge were: Grand Vice President Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Westerly, R.I.; Canadian President Aspa Kostopoulos, Ontario, Canada; Grand Secretary Demi Thomas, Ridgewood, N.J.; Grand Treasurer Connie Pilallis, Boca Raton, Fla.; Grand Governor Zone I Maria Cookie Patelos, Albany, N.Y.; Grand Governor Zone II Kathryn Tripodis, Parma, Ohio; Grand Governor Zone III Barbara Maligas, Spring, Texas; Grand Governor Zone IV Jan Spanos, Sacramento, Calif.; and Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena Niki Pallas, Chandler, Arizona.

“Our Grand Lodge has a tremendous amount of experience with our officers having served in all capacities within the organization,” said Saltas. “We all look forward to traveling the country and visiting communities in the constant effort to fulfill our mission.”

Saltas’ theme for the administrative year is “Achieve.” She has challenged the membership to reach new heights of tolerance, respect, and patience and to achieve more in the way of programs, events, and outreach in the community.

Founded in San Francisco in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope is the first women’s organization of its kind established in the United States. It is an affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA).

The mission of the DOP is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

For more information about the DOP, or any of its programs or projects, please visit www.ahepa.org/dop.

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