



Daughters of Penelope  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Grossomanides Elected Grand President of Daughters of Penelope**

*Brooklyn, N.Y. Native, Educator Tapped to Lead DOP*

**WASHINGTON (July 29, 2014)**—Convention delegates of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a preeminent international women's organization, elected Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Westerly, R.I., Grand President for the 2014-2015 administrative year. Elections were held July 25, 2014 at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual AHEPA Supreme Convention, New Orleans, La.

"It is an honor and a great thrill to be elected Grand President," said Grossomanides, who retains membership in her "hometown" chapter, Demetra Chapter33, Brooklyn, N.Y. "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."

Grossomanides, a member of the Daughters of Penelope for 24 years, has served all major positions at national, district, and chapter levels within the organization, including two terms as Grand Vice-President (2012-14) and all offices at the Grand Lodge level. She was also an active member of the Maids of Athena, serving on the District 6 Lodge.

"The Daughters of Penelope provides invaluable opportunities for women to make significant contributions to their country and to their communities," Grossomanides said. "I am grateful for the opportunities the organization have provided me, and I want to ensure those opportunities are afforded to future generations of women for years to come."

The newly-elected grand president was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. She is a graduate of Saint Joseph's College (Brooklyn, N.Y.) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and Communication, and she has earned a Master's degree in Education from Brooklyn College.

Grand President Grossomanides has been an educator for more than 20 years, teaching Middle School (Science) in NYC Public Schools and Elementary School (Multi-Subjects). She has served in administrative positions in Greek Orthodox Parochial Schools in New York City. Currently, Grossomanides is a substitute in the Westerly, R.I. Public School System and Stonington, Conn. School System.

In 2012, Grossomanides married then AHEPA Supreme President John Grossomanides and moved to Westerly, R.I. There, she is active in community organizations. She is a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Norwich, R.I. and serves on the Parish Council and sings



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in the Choir. Also, Anna-Helene and John are members in Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Brooklyn.

Anna-Helene is the daughter of the late Evangelos Panagakos and Stella Panagakos. Both parents emigrated from Laconia, Greece. She has one brother, James, and comes from a large extended family.

### **2014-2015 Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge**

Elected to the Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge were: Grand Vice President Connie Pilallis, Boca Raton, Fla.; Canadian President Christina Andrews, Edmonton, Alb., Canada; Grand Secretary Jan Spanos, Sacramento, Calif.; Grand Treasurer Eva Jean Fomalont, Albuquerque, N.M.; Grand Governor Zone I Julia Collins, North Babylon, N.Y.; Grand Governor Zone II Aspa Kostopoulos, Ontario, Canada; Grand Governor Zone III Anne-Marie Cariotis, Dallas, Texas; Grand Governor Zone IV Diane Petersen, Elk Grove, Calif.; and Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena, Christine Bullock, Albuquerque, N.M.



*In Photo Left to Right: Top Row - Grand Advisor to the MOA Christine Bullock, Grand Governor Zone IV Diane Petersen, Grand Governor Zone III Anne-Marie Cariotis, Grand Governor Zone II Aspa Kostopoulos and Grand Governor Zone I Julia Collins.*



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*Left to Right: Bottom Row - Grand Treasurer Eva Jean Fomalont, Canadian President Christina Andrews, Grand President Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Grand Vice President Connie Pilallis and Grand Secretary Jan Spanos.*

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

Grossomanides’ theme for the administrative year is “Inspire.” 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.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org).

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