

# *Daughters of Penelope*

National Directory  
2017-2018



Established in 1929

*Heart of the Matter*  
*Power of We*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the AHEPA Family is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Daughters of Penelope are to encourage and promote loyalty to the country in which they live, cultivate the ideals and traditions of Hellenism, promote opportunities of education and promote the spirit of cooperation while working closely and in harmony with the entire AHEPA Family. The Daughters of Penelope is non-partisan and non-denominational.

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## THE STORY OF PENELOPE



In ancient Greek mythology, Penelope was the wife of Odysseus, King of Ithaca. Odysseus left her with their son, Telemachus, when he went to the Trojan War.

After the war ended, numerous mishaps and weary wanderings kept him from returning home.

As time went on and he did not return, many suitors tried to claim her hand. For a long time, she put them off with the plea that she must finish a robe for Laertes, her father-in-law; but every night she unraveled what she had woven by day, thus remaining faithful to the memory of Odysseus and steadfast to the sanctity of her home.

Finally, Odysseus appeared after an absence of twenty years. The name of our Order, *Daughters of Penelope*, symbolizes all the noble virtues that made up the character of *Penelope*.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE HISTORY

The *Daughters of Penelope* was the realization of Alexandra Apostolides' dream. Her desire was to create a woman's organization. Because of her perseverance, and the encouragement of her husband Dr. Emanuel Apostolides, a devoted Ahepan, she formed *Eos Chapter #1* with 25 charter members on November 16, 1929 in San Francisco, California. She was elected the first Grand President in 1931.

Mrs. Apostolides envisioned a new beginning for the Greek American women. She drafted the basic principles of our organization, which became an inspiration to all women.

The Daughters of Penelope is the women's organization of the AHEPA Family (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) with headquarters in Washington, D.C. Today it is a leader in philanthropic, educational and cultural activities with over 250 Chapters in United States, Canada, Greece, Germany and with sister Chapters in Australia.

In 1938, the establishment of the first Canadian Chapter in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, by Sister Cleo Girgulis, paved the way for the Daughters of Penelope to become an international organization. The first Daughter's chapter in Greece was formed in 1954 by Past Grand President Adeline Geo-Karis, making our bonds to the mother country even stronger.

The Daughters of Penelope not only help through monetary contributions. They devote countless hours of volunteer work in hospitals, senior citizen's homes, women's and daycare centers. Further, they organize educational seminars, award scholarships, sponsor HUD housing and women's shelters, help the less fortunate, support their local church, and make a huge difference in their community.



## STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Order of the Daughters of Penelope is comprised of the following units:

***Chapters:*** All Daughters of Penelope are members of local Chapters, which conduct meetings and sponsor civic, educational, charitable and social activities. Chapter Officers are elected annually by their members.

***District Lodges:*** Daughters of Penelope Chapters are grouped into Districts which organize regional seminars, conferences, and the annual District Convention. District Lodge Officers are elected by the delegates sent by the Chapters to the District Convention.

***Grand Lodge:*** All Districts come under the aegis of the Grand Lodge. Delegates from each Chapter attend the Supreme Convention, held annually, where committees are formed by the delegates to study projects, rules and regulations and approve new ones. The Grand Lodge officers are elected by the Chapter delegates attending the Supreme Convention. All members are encouraged to participate in worthwhile projects both nationally and in their respective communities.

***Maids of Athena:*** The young woman's auxiliary of the Daughters of Penelope. The Maids of Athena Chapter meetings are attended by an advisor who is a member of the local Daughters Chapter. It is an exciting experience for a young woman to participate in the undertakings of the Maids of Athena, who practice their Hellenic culture, traditions and ideals. It is an opportunity for these young ladies to develop leadership and governing experience as well as make friendships that last a lifetime.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE LOGO



The *Head of Penelope*, in ancient headdress, symbolizes friendship and womanhood, and is significant of the very foundation of life, home and country.

The *Olive Wreath*, encircling the head of Penelope, is symbolic of the only prize given to the Olympic victors, participating in the ancient Olympic Games.

The *Cross* is a symbol of our Christian Faith, and the *Crossed Sabers* are taken from the Shield of the Greek Nation.

The *Eagle* symbolizes the United States, where our Order was founded.

The letters ΘΠ (Theta-Pi) stand for Θυγατερες της Πηνελοπης, thus we are known as the Daughters of Penelope.

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