

# *Daughters of Penelope*



## *Summary Minutes*

*Supreme Convention*

*Mirage Hotel – Las Vegas, Nevada*

*July 25-29, 2016*

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*Daughters of Penelope*  
*86<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention*  
*The Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada*  
*Tuesday, July 26, 2016*

The 86th Annual Supreme Convention of the Daughters of Penelope was called to order on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:52 a.m. with welcoming remarks by Las Vegas Panope Chapter 162 President Katherine Pentogenis.

Past Grand President Anna-Helene Grossomanides led the delegation in the singing of the National Anthems of Greece, Canada, and the United States.

Grand President Connie Pilallis was introduced and escorted into the room by Past Grand Presidents Elizabeth Athanasakos and Kaliope Xenakis from District 2.

Grand President Pilallis welcomed everyone and called upon Aspa Kostopoulos, Grand Governor Zone V, to give the opening prayer.

The Grand President then called upon Grand Vice President Jan Spanos to conduct the Memorial Service for all Sisters departed during the 2015-2016 year. She was assisted by the Grand Lodge with the lighting of candles in memory of the 161 departed Sisters.

Grand President Pilallis then requested the Past Grand Presidents to come to the front of the dais and introduce themselves. The following Past Grand Presidents were present: Elizabeth Athanasakos (1965-1966), Sonja Stefanadis (1981-1982), Elaine Kevgas (1983-1984), Kaliope Xenakis (1987-1988), Becky Demeris (1988-1989), Angie Speliopoulos (1993-1994), Joanne Booras (2001-2002), Karen Stamatiades (2007-2008), Barbara Stavis Wolf (2008-2009), Christine Constantine (2010-2011), Nicky Stamoulis (2011-2012), Joanne Saltas (2012-2014), Anna-Helene Grossomanides (2014-2015).

All past Grand Lodge Officers and the National Penelope's of the Year were also acknowledged by Grand President Pilallis.

Past Grand President Karen Stamatiades (Chapter 53, District 1) delivered the Past Grand Presidents' message.

**The Convention Parliamentarian**, Barbara Hensinger, was introduced to the delegates by Grand President Pilallis.

**Appointment of Sentinels by Grand President Pilallis:**

Maggie Thomas (Chapter 340, District 20)

Elaine Hatupis (Chapter 340, District 20)

**Appointment of Tellers by Grand President Pilallis:**

Kathy Matrakis (Chapter 11, District 3)

Antonia Hyland (Chapter 289, District 2)

Katina Tassopoulos (Chapter 105, District 16)

Lisa Dolz (Chapter 19, District 17)

***Credentials Report by Credentials Chairman Elaine Rice (Chapter 120, District 8):***

***Registered Delegates: 150***

***Time: 10:36a.m.***

PGP Becky Demeris (Chapter 54, District 16) moved and it was seconded by Christina Andrews (Chapter 268, District 24) to adopt the Standing Rules for Convention as outlined in the Daughters of Penelope Constitution. **Motion carried.**

Mary Chicos (Chapter 1, District 21) moved and it was seconded by Isa Velez Monsul (Chapter 230, District 5) to adopt the 2016 Supreme Convention Agenda. **Motion carried.**

### **ELECTION OF CONVENTION OFFICERS**

#### **Nominations for Convention Chairman:**

PCP Celia Kachmarski (Chapter 295, District 24) nominated by PCP Christina Andrews (Chapter 268, District 24)

#### **Nominations for Convention Vice Chairman:**

Marianthi Treppiedi (Chapter 115, District 22) nominated by Mary Pazeotopoulos (Chapter 32, District 22)

#### **Nominations for Convention Secretary:**

Barbara Maligas (Chapter 54, District 16) nominated by PGP Barbara Stavis Wolf (Chapter 55, District 16)

Nominees were declared Convention Officers by acclamation. Installation of Convention Officers was conducted by Grand President Pilallis.

Chairman Kachmarski took the podium, welcomed the delegates, reviewed instructions and matters of interest, and made some introductory remarks.

#### **Review and Adoption of 2015 Convention Summary Minutes**

There being no additions, corrections or deletions, a motion to adopt the minutes was made by Georgia Souris (Chapter 340, District 20), and seconded by Mary Pazeotopoulos (Chapter 32, District 22).

**Motion carried.**

#### **Grand President's Report**

Grand President Connie Pilallis presented her report summarizing the activities of her year as President. A travelogue with over 99,000 miles chronicled: crossing the United States to visit chapters from Massachusetts to California, and internationally to chapters in Canada, Germany, and Greece.

She included four recommendations in her report:

- Hire additional staff to assist Executive Director Elena;
- Plan a visit in October/November to the chapters in Greece and Europe;
- Limit National Mandatory Projects to no more than two;
- Ensure our Maids of Athena and Sons of Pericles are a priority.

She closed with special thanks and acknowledgements to all those with whom she worked. Supreme President John Galanis entered the hall and expressed his appreciation to Grand President Connie with the presentation of a gift.

### **Canadian Affairs Report**

The report was presented by Aspa Kostopoulos, Grand Governor Zone V. She detailed a total of 10 Daughters of Penelope chapters, five Maids of Athena chapters, and District 23 as being designated a District for the Maids of Athena.

### **Growth and Expansion Report**

Grand Vice President Jan Spanos welcomed new chapters and members from Clear Lake, Texas and Melbourne, Australia. She announced that The Daughters of Penelope have over 7,000 active members and over 11,000 if you include members who recently have become delinquent.

She provided certificates to 15 chapters that had 10 or more new initiates, six chapters that reinstated 10 or more members and to the following chapter initiative winners:

- “Most New Members in September” – Daphne Chapter #29, District 21
- Making Dreams Come True in the “Season of Giving” – Eos #1, District 21; Hermes #41, District 7; Medusa #345, District 6; Hermione #11, District 3
- “Share Your Love for the Daughters of Penelope” – Arsinoi #24, Xnathi, Greece; Phillia #380, District 20; Charai #79, District 17

### **DOP Headquarters Report**

Executive Director Elena Saviolakis requested the following information be passed on to the chapters:

- Tentative launch date is January, 2017 for the new membership system which will provide members better service and easy access to information. The new system will allow members and chapter/district officers to not only access their profiles and download reports but also will give the members the option to pay per capita via credit which is not an option with our existing system which is almost 15 years old.
- Important to fill out reinstatement and new membership applications completely; make chapter roster corrections; be aware of requirements for Life membership versus those having 50+ continuous years of service after January, 1999.
- Use Chapter Billing Form and send in Per Capita as soon as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Adhere to all deadlines and guidelines on forms, i.e, National Obligation Forms, Chapter and District Election Results Forms.
- Headquarters files the chapter and district e-postcards required by the IRS; copies of the filed 990-N's can be viewed via the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).
- A 501c3 charitable foundation has been set up under the AHEPA family umbrella for charitable purposes and special projects.

A motion to adopt the reports was made by Angela Magrames (Chapter 60, District 12) and seconded by Jeanette Rigopoulos (Chapter 380, District 10).

**Motion Carried**

**12:00 noon – The meeting was recessed with Committee Meetings to start at 2:00 p.m.**

*Daughters of Penelope*  
*86<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention*  
*The Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada*  
*Wednesday, July 27, 2016*

**9:10 a.m. – The meeting was reconvened**

***Credentials Report:***

***Voting Strength: 110***

***Time: 9:10 a.m.***

**DOP Foundation, Inc. Report**

Foundation President, PGP Joanne Booras (Chapter 4, District 21) introduced the Foundation Board and presented the results of the Foundation Scholarship awards for 2017: there were 22 scholarships awarded of the 24 available; there were 67 applications submitted for undergraduate awards and nine for graduate awards; 25 of the applications were disqualified for various reasons; independent auditors evaluate the applications; the awards will go to the colleges the recipients will be attending this year rather than directly to the student; the monies can be applied to their tuition or toward books. Elaine Rice (Chapter 120, District 8) requested written confirmation from the colleges that they will allow the students to use the money for purchase of books or for whatever else is needed by the student.

One Bridge Incentive Grant application was awarded to Eros 365 from District 2 for their participation in their Pack-A-Sack program for school students.

Other projects of the Foundation include the monthly book selection program, and the I-Give and Amazon contribution projects. Foundation President Joanne also announced that the Foundation Board had two openings for which any Daughters of Penelope member could apply.

The founder of the Foundation, PGP Sonja Stephanadis (Chapter 186, District 2), then spoke to the delegation about the vision she had, how the Foundation was started, and all that it has done in the past 35 years. She thanked the districts, chapters, and members for their continuing support.

**Penelope House Report**

Toni Ann Coumanis Torrans (Chapter 344, District 1), Penelope House Director, provided a brief history of the formation of Penelope House and how it helps domestic violence victims. They now have an annual budget of \$1.9 million and provided the following services in 2015: shelter for 367 adults and 411 children; 6413 nights of shelter; answered 2,066 crisis calls; served 19,213 meals; taught 20,000 school-age children preventive education about abuse; and obtained 1,365 protective orders.

Toni Ann thanked the Daughters of Penelope for their support and announced the date of their largest fund raiser, their annual Chocolate Festival (to be held on March 4, 2017). She presented a gift to Grand President Pilallis.

**Penelope's Place Report**

Chairman Tina Niedbala (Chapter 122, District 8) reported that the five bedroom shelter in Brockton, MA, provided shelter for more than 46 victims of domestic violence and their children, as well as other

types of intervention and services for abuse victims. She thanked the Daughters for the money they donated. All monies received go directly to help with the operating costs. Despite the assistance of government funding and other resources, the shelter is facing a \$46,000 deficit for the coming year and requires costly capital improvements.

Announcements from the Chair:

- Projects Committee will meet again this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Croix room
- The sports luncheon will be held in the Montego Room

***Credentials Report:***

***Registered: 163***

***Voting strength: 159***

***Time: 10:04 a.m***

**Committee Reports**

Archives – In the absence of Chairman Tessie Bourdamis, PGP Angie Speliopulos (Chapter 35, District 14) presented the report. She encouraged members to visit the Immigration Center in Minneapolis, and referred to Sister Tessie’s report in which was stated “I encourage and thank all those sisters who help maintain, preserve and record the history of their chapters and districts for future generations to come.”

**No Action Taken**

Grievance – Chairman Niki Pallas (Chapter 340, District 20) reported that only one grievance was received and it was found to be without merit. She moved to accept the report.

**Motion carried**

A motion was made by Mary Chicos (Chapter 1, District 21) to do away with the Grievance Committee totally. Seconded by Elaine Hatupis (Chapter 340, District 20). PGP Evellyn Tsiadis (District 5) referred to the Constitution which lists the Grievance Committee as one of the standing committees, therefore it needs to be taken to Legislation for a Legislative change.

**No Action Taken**

Mary Chicos then made a recommendation perhaps the Grand President could appoint someone to receive all grievances and together with the Grand Lodge or Grand President could resolve any issues.

Maids of Athena – Grand Maids of Athena Advisor Kathy Zotos presented her committee’s list of recommendations to assist in the growth and support of the Maids of Athena. She moved to accept the report.

**Motion carried**

Announcement from the Chair: PGP Catherine Ferguson (Chapter 98, District 13) and PGP Evellyn Tsiadis ( Chapter 229, District 5) had joined the delegation.

Penelope of the Year – Chairman Vasiliki Katsikathas (Chapter 79, District 17) presented her committee’s report. Eleven applications were reviewed by the committee. Past National Penelope’s of the Year were asked to stand in front of the dais for a photo to be taken with the 2016 National Penelope of the Year recipient: **Vasilia Kachmarski** (Chapter 295, District 24).

A motion to accept the Penelope of the Year report was made.

**Motion Carried**

Investments – Carl Hollister of L.M. Kohn & Company reviewed the returns, income, and outlook for the Daughters of Penelope portfolio: 80.58% of investments are in FDIC step-up CDs; some of CDs have been called from which we received a capital gain; a little over \$18,000-\$20,000 in interest will be generated next year; an average rate of return of 3.75% is realized on investments per year; the interest accumulates in a money market fund and then reinvested.

The Committee Chairman called the question to accept the investment report.

**Motion Carried**

Budget & Finance – Chairman Nicole Sackedis (Chapter 186, District 2) presented the proposed 2016-2017 budget with a balance of income and expenses amounting to \$314,250.00. Line 43 “District Rebate” was calculated at \$1 per member, a reduction from the re-appropriation of \$2 given in previous years.

A motion was made by Georgette Boulegeris (Chapter 229, District 5) to increase the District Rebate to \$2 and offset the extra cost from line 67. Motion was seconded by Christine Markos (Chapter 119, District 20).

**Motion Carried**

Therefore the corrected amount budgeted for line 43 becomes \$6,250.00 and line 67 becomes \$4,300.00. Line 47 then becomes \$93,750.00.

Other discussion:

Line 45: Total Advertising & Marketing/Public Relations – Retainer for Legislative Consultant and Marketing Purposes

Line 49: Printing & Postage – reduction will be recognized when new system is implemented and with utilization of email.

Line 53: District Governors Seminar – No stipend will be given to attending District Governors.

*(Discussion of Budget & Finance was postponed until after the Sons of Pericles Supreme President’s Remarks.)*

#### **AHEPA Family Presidents’ Reports:**

Sons of Pericles Supreme President’s Report – Sons of Pericles Supreme President Andreas Christou introduced the outgoing Supreme Lodge. He reported that five new chapters were reactivated nationwide and that the Sons raised over \$25,000 for St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero. Grand President Pilallis presented a gift to Supreme President Andreas from the Grand Lodge and a personal gift from herself.

*(Discussion of Budget & Finance resumed)*

A motion to adopt the amended budget was made by Chairman Sackidis.

**Motion Carried**

The Budget & Finance Committee proposed the following recommendation: “Whereas, the current budget combines full-time and IRS services to DOP into one expense line, we recommend that line 60 of



Daughters of Penelope Budget - September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017				
		Budget	Actual	Proposed Budget
		2015-2016	7/1/2016	2016-2017
1	Income			
2	<i>Program Services: Penelope's Scroll</i>			
3	Total Program Services: Penelope's Scroll	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
4	<i>Member Services</i>			
5	*Per Capita (based on 6,700 actual paying members)	\$ 234,500.00	\$ 223,840.00	\$ 234,500.00
6	Reinstatement Fees	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,610.00	\$ 3,000.00
7	Initiation Fees	\$ 7,050.00	\$ 7,590.00	\$ 7,050.00
8	Chapter Assessment Fee	\$ 8,850.00	\$ 9,835.00	\$ 8,850.00
9	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 300.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 300.00
10	Penelope's Emporium Sales	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 11,894.00	\$ 15,000.00
11	Total Member Services	\$ 268,700.00	\$ 255,909.00	\$ 268,700.00
12	<i>Supreme Convention &amp; Special Events Profits</i>			
13	<i>Sponsorships</i>			
14	Supreme Convention Album Ads & Sponsors	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
15	Total Sponsorships	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
16	Supreme Convention Profits (# of Actual/Projected Delegates x \$35)	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,145.00	\$ 7,000.00
17	Total Supreme Convention & Special Event Profits	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,145.00	\$ 20,000.00
18	<i>Administration Fees Contributions (Charities)</i>			
19	Total Contributions (Charities)	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 53,545.00	\$ 55,000.00
20	Direct/Ind Costs (15% of contributions excluding MOA & Chap. Ass. Fee)	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,017.00	\$ 7,500.00
21	Contributions (Charities)	\$ (55,000.00)	\$ (53,545.00)	\$ (55,000.00)
22	Total Administrative Fees	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,017.00	\$ 7,500.00
23	<i>Investment Income</i>			
24	Investment Income	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 17,866.45	\$ 18,000.00
25	Total Income	\$ 314,250.00	\$ 299,947.45	\$ 314,250.00
26	<i>Expenses</i>			
27	<i>Appropriation for Travel &amp; Meetings</i>			
28	Grand Lodge Travel Appropriations	\$ 50,750.00	\$ 46,881.13	\$ 50,750.00
29	Grand President	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00
30	Grand Vice President	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 2,500.00
31	Grand Secretary	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
32	Grand Treasurer	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
33	Grand Governor Zone I	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 751.52	\$ 2,500.00
34	Grand Governor Zone II	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,340.80	\$ 2,500.00
35	Grand Governor Zone III	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,028.00	\$ 2,500.00
36	Grand Governor Zone IV	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,010.81	\$ 2,500.00
37	Grand Governor Zone V	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
38	Grand Advisor to the MOA	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,250.00
40	Headquarters Travel (Includes GL Mtgs, Trip to Greece & Convention)	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 6,109.35	\$ 8,500.00
41	Grand Lodge Meetings	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
42	Total Travel Appropriations	\$ 59,250.00	\$ 52,990.48	\$ 59,250.00
43	District Rebate (\$2 per member)	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,726.00	\$ 12,500.00
44	<i>Advertising &amp; Marketing/Public Relations</i>			
45	Total Advertising & Marketing/Public Relations	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 20,353.71	\$ 22,000.00
46	*Saint Nicholas National Shrine Fundraiser Event	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
47	Total Program Services	\$ 97,750.00	\$ 86,070.19	\$ 93,750.00
48	<i>Member Services</i>			
49	Printing & Postage for Mailings & Bulletins & Membership Cards	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,254.10	\$ 10,000.00
50	Total Member Services	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,254.10	\$ 10,000.00

Daughters of Penelope Budget - September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017				
		Budget	Actual	Proposed Budget
		2015-2016	7/1/2016	2016-2017
51	<i>Conferences &amp; Special Events</i>			
52	Supreme Convention and District Governor's Seminar			
53	District Governors Seminar (2015 Seminar held at 2015 Convention)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,000.00
54	Supreme Convention	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 15,084.92	\$ 16,000.00
55	<b>Total Conferences &amp; Special Events</b>	<b>\$ 18,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,184.92</b>	<b>\$ 19,000.00</b>
56	<i>Management and General Administrative Fees</i>			
57	AHEPA Allocation of Costs	\$ 26,100.00	\$ 23,925.00	\$ 26,100.00
58	*Membership Software and Maintenance	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
59	*Office and Equipment Expense	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 4,000.00
60	Full & Part-Time Staff Payroll + Payroll Taxes	\$ 113,300.00	\$ 74,940.87	\$ 113,300.00
61	Miscellaneous/Petty Cash/Club Memberships	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,150.00
62	Penelope's Emporium Supplies	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,014.05	\$ 9,000.00
63	Office Telephone and Fax	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,752.70	\$ 1,800.00
64	*Computer Software and Office Upgrades	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
65	<b>Total Management and General</b>	<b>\$ 177,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 123,422.62</b>	<b>\$ 178,350.00</b>
66	Chapter Assessment Fee	\$ 8,850.00	\$ 9,835.00	\$ 8,850.00
67	*Actual Expenses Payable	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,392.47	\$ 4,300.00
68	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 314,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 248,159.30</b>	<b>\$ 314,250.00</b>
69	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 314,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 299,947.45</b>	<b>\$ 314,250.00</b>
	Line 5: Per Capita is based on 6,700 members to account for the approximately 300 life members that are waived from HQ Dues			
	Line 30: VP Appropriation was reduced by \$1,750 from \$4,250 to \$2,500. The \$750 was allocated to the Grand MOA Advisor (Line 38) as she has two countries to cover and \$1,000 allocated to the Line 41 for Grand Lodge Meeting Expenses.			
	Line 46: No fundraising event was held for Saint Nicholas Shrine for the 2016 year.			
	Line 58: Accounts for balance of payment for new membership system, anticipated programming fees, and membership maintenance on old and current system as we need to work parallel with both systems until all conversions, reports, etc. are complete.			
	Line 59 & 64: Increases have been made to this line item for necessary upgrades and equipment so as to be compatible with the new membership software system.			
	Line 67: Increase so as to cover any special projects, events and/or fundraisers approved by the Grand Lodge (Example: Capitol Hill Day, Congressional Banquet, Philanthropy Award)			

the 2017-2018 budget be separated into 3 separate lines entitled ‘Full-Time payroll, payroll taxes and benefits’, ‘Part-Time payroll, payroll taxes and benefits’ and ‘IRS Services to DOP’, which will allow for more transparency.”

The Convention Chairman called for the vote:

**Motion Carried**

Deb Chrisohou (Chapter 295, District 24) moved that a fourth column be added to the budget that lists the “Actual” Expenses for the previous year. Seconded by Roberta Jackson (Chapter 115, District 22).

**Motion Carried**

**11:50 a.m. – Meeting recessed**

**2:48 p.m. – Meeting reconvened**

### **AHEPA Family Presidents’ Reports:**

Maids of Athena Grand President’s Remarks – MOA Grand President Deanna Socaris informed the delegation that there were in attendance 27 Maids, of whom 21 were delegates. During the past year, the Maids raised over \$5,000 for their President’s Project, Melissa’s Orphanage. In addition they raised \$14,000 for their National Project, St. Nicholas Church and Shrine, and a total of \$30,000 for the past two years. There are 35 chapters with a representation of 500 members. Daughters were invited to become Patrons of Athena for a one-time fee of \$75. The first new pin was given to Grand President Pilallis. A gift was presented from Grand President Pilallis on behalf of the Grand Lodge to MOA Grand President Socaris.

### **Special Remarks:**

AHEPA Housing – Sister Angela Magrames (Chapter 60, District 12) introduced Angelos Kostarides from AHEPA Housing. He named the locations of the eight apartment complexes that have built by Daughters of Penelope. The demand for housing is increasing while the government grant funds are drying up. They are exploring a new blended program with 50% financing from government grants and 50% from investors and tax credits. The Pioneer Scholarship Program was instituted with \$10,000 being given to the Educational Foundation for five \$2,000 scholarships.

### **Committee Reports:**

Legislative Report – Legislative Director Andrew Kaffes reviewed legislative activities performed to assist the Daughters of Penelope in its mission of “civic responsibility” through the Daughters’ web page containing “Issues Sheet”, “Action Alerts”, updated sign-on letters, news releases and current events. Issues addressed include the Victims’ Rights Caucus, Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, the “Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution” (H.Res. 154), financial appropriations for the Victims of Crime Act and Office of Violence Against Women. He continues to educate members of Congress about the service oriented work that the Daughters of Penelope perform. Grand President Pilallis present a thank you gift to Andrew.

***Credentials Report:***

***Voting Strength: 141***

***Time: 3:30 p.m.***

Legislation – Chairman Eftyhia Kirkiles (Chapter 289, District 2) presented to the Convention the following Maids of Athena and Daughters of Penelope legislation for their consideration:

**MAIDS OF ATHENA CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS:**

ARTICLE XX, Section 3. (b) –

*Currently Reads:* They are to approve all expenditures less than \$75 and all matters involving public activity and/or participation. However, on matters pertaining to expenditures over \$75, but not exceeding the amount of the treasury, no decision of the Local Advisory Board shall be effective until approved by the local Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope.

*Shall Read:* They are to approve all expenditures less than **\$250** and all matters involving public activity and/or participation. However, on matters pertaining to expenditures over \$250, but not exceeding the amount of the treasury, no decision of the Local Advisory Board shall be effective until approved by the local Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope.

**Motion Carried**

Throughout the Constitution & By Laws –

All 23 instances of the word “dues” will be changed to “Per Capita Tax” for uniformity throughout the Maids of Athena Constitution.

**Motion Carried**

Various Articles throughout the Constitution & By Laws –

All instances where a dollar amount is provided would be removed:

ARTICLE IV, Section 3. Initiation Fee –

*Shall read:* An initiation fee shall be remitted by any Chapter of the Order of the Maids of Athena, as outlined in the Leadership Handbook, or as outlined on the remittance forms issued for that year (See Article XXII, Section L).

ARTICLE IV, Section 6. (a). Transfer of Membership –

*Shall read:* A transfer fee, shall accompany each application for transfer. The Chapter into which she is transferring shall remit one-half of the fee to Supreme Headquarters and shall retain one-half of the fee.

ARTICLE IV, Section 8. Assessment Fee –

*Shall read:* Aside from the Per Capita Tax remitted to Supreme Headquarters, an individual assessment fee shall be remitted to Supreme Headquarters, for each member, on a separate check.

ARTICLE XXII, Section 2. (a.), (b.), (c.), (d.) Per Capita Tax and Fees of Chapter –

*Shall read:* (a) The Initiation Fee and Per Capita Tax shall be paid on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year to the recording Secretary. On March 31<sup>st</sup> the Secretary shall notify members in arrears. Members whose Per Capita Tax are not paid by June 1<sup>st</sup> shall be known as Delinquent Members. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Secretary shall notify members in arrears, pointing out that after thirty (30) days, membership shall be suspended for nonpayment of Per Capita Tax.

(b) If a member is initiated into the Order after November 30<sup>th</sup>, her Per Capita Tax shall apply to the following year.

(c) All Chapter remittances must be in the form of U.S. Dollars.

(d) Per Capita Tax and all fees shall be outlined in the Leadership Handbook and outlined in remittance forms.

ARTICLE XXII, Section 5. (a.), (b.) Reinstated Members –

*Shall read:* (a) A member suspended solely for nonpayment of Per Capita Tax may be reinstated upon payment of the current year's Per Capita Tax, plus Reinstatement fee.

(b) A member suspended for other than nonpayment of Per Capita Tax, and desiring to be reinstated, shall make an application in writing, accompanied by the fee, and submit it to the Secretary of the Chapter, who shall report it at the next meeting. The Secretary shall then notify the members of the name of the applicant for reinstatement which shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required.

ARTICLE XXII, Section 6. Assessment Fees –

*Shall read:* In order for a member of the Maids of Athena to be in good standing, she must remit an Assessment Fee annually to Supreme Headquarters. This fee will be placed in a long-term investment account.

ARTICLE XII, Section 6. (b.) Finances –

*Shall read:* Each District Lodge shall be entitled to a prorated share of the fees paid to Supreme Headquarters, consisting of a portion of the initiation fee charged to each member, one-half (1/2) the total amount received from reinstatements, and a portion of the Per Capita tax paid annually by each member in the District.

**Motion Carried**

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS

ARTICLE XXX, MAIDS OF ATHENA, Section 1b, Maids of Athena Junior Women's

Auxiliary –

*Currently reads:* To join, she shall be eligible from the age of fourteen (14) through the age of twenty-three (23).

*Proposed change:* To be initiated, she shall be eligible from the age of fourteen (14) through the age of twenty-seven (27).

*Rationale:* Currently a young lady between the ages of 23 to 27 cannot be initiated in the MOA and be active, such as to serve in a leadership capacity on the District or Grand Lodge. Yet, as these young ladies mature, they are precisely the individuals who should be encouraged to become more active in the MOA and assume leadership positions. As dual members in the DOP from age 23 on, these young ladies gaining experience in MOA are great assets to the DOP.

**Motion Defeated**

ARTICLE V, MEMBERSHIP, Section 1. b. Qualifications –

*Currently reads:* She shall be twenty-one (21) years of age if single but she may be under twenty-one if married. In any locality where conditions preclude the establishment of a Chapter of the Maids of Athena, an applicant shall be eligible for membership in the Order provided she is over seventeen (17) years of age and special permission is obtained from the Grand President.

*Proposed change:* She shall be eighteen (18) years of age if single but she may be under twenty-one if married.

*Rationale:* Federal and state laws recognize eighteen (18) as a legal age. Bring this document current with the second millennium.

**Motion Carried**

ARTICLE XVI, THE SUPREME CONVENTION, Section 14. h, Powers of the Supreme Convention –

Section 14. The powers and duties of the Supreme Convention of this Order shall be:

*Currently Reads:* (h.) To select no more than three mandatory national projects.

*Proposed Change:* (h.) To select no more than two mandatory national projects.

*Rationale:* Limiting number of mandatory project choices, increases amount of donation to projects and in turn gives better recognition, and impact; strengthens the core mission of the organization with a more focused undertaking; allows chapters to connect with local community projects without encumbrance of supporting several national mandatory projects.

**Motion Carried**

*(NOTE: See page 13 – A revote was taken on this submission and the legislation Defeated)*

**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE RITUAL**

The Oath, page 17-19

*Currently reads:* PRESIDENT: “The Neoplyte(s) are ready to take the oath and obligation of our Order.” (3 raps) (The Oath itself should be read in small portions as indicated by the stars.)  
“The Oath”

*Proposed Change:* Replace Oath with Oath and/or Affirmation.

*Rationale:* Chapters have potential members who say making an oath is an obstacle to joining the organization. With their beliefs, they are unable to make an oath to an organization. The word “Oath” has presented itself as an exclusionary obstacle for potential members. The current wording in “the Oath” itself says, “Do solemnly affirm that...” Changing the title from Oath to Affirmation would make the wording consistent and remove the obstacle for potential members.

**Motion Defeated**

Projects – Chairman Kathryn Tripodis (Chapter 355, District 11) proceeded to present her report but due to lack of time since the committee meeting at 2:00 p.m., they did not have copies of the report to hand out to the membership.

A motion was made by Georgette Boulegeris (Chapter 229, District 5) to table the discussion until Thursday’s session. Seconded by PGP Angie Speliopoulos (Chapter 35, District 14).

**Motion Carried**

**4:23 p.m. – The meeting was recessed**

*Daughters of Penelope  
86<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention  
The Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Thursday, July 28, 2016*

**9:13 a.m. – The meeting was reconvened**

*Credentials Report:*

*Voting Strength: 129*

*Time: 9:15 a.m*

**NOMINATIONS AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES:**

**Grand President:**

Connie Pilallis (Grand President) nominated by PGP Betty Athanasakos (Chapter 289, District 2) and PGP Kaliope Xenakis (Chapter 289, District 2).

Declined

Jan Spanos (Grand Vice President) nominated by GP Connie Pilallis ; Beverly Kennedy (Chapter 64, District 21) and Pauline Cazanis (Chapter 5, District 21) spoke in support of Jan on behalf of District 21.

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Jan Spanos** was declared Grand President elect by acclamation.

**Grand Vice President:**

Eva Jean Fomalont (Grand Secretary) nominated by Demi Cross (Chapter 6 District 17).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Eva Jean Fomalont** was declared Grand Vice President elect by acclamation.

**Grand Secretary:**

Diane Petersen (Grand Treasurer) nominated by Beverly Kennedy (Chapter 64, District 21).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Diane Petersen** was declared Grand Secretary elect by acclamation.

**Grand Treasurer:**

Aspa Kostopoulos (GG Zone V) nominated by Eleni Agas (Chapter 220, District 23).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Aspa Kostopoulos** was declared Grand Treasurer elect by acclamation.

**Grand Governor Zone I:**

Lili Respass (GG Zone I) nominated by Eugenia Christy (Chapter 122, District 8).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Lili Respass** was declared Grand Governor Zone I elect by acclamation.

**Grand Governor Zone II:**

Dorothea Williams (GG Zone II) nominated by Christina Vlahopoulos (Chapter 174, District 10).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Dorothea Williams** was declared Grand Governor Zone II elect by acclamation.

**Grand Governor Zone III:**

Kathy Papadimitropoulos (GG Zone III) nominated by Demi Cross (Chapter 6, District 17).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Kathy Papadimitropoulos** was declared Grand Governor Zone III elect by acclamation.

**Grand Governor Zone IV:**

Katherine Karafotias (GG Zone IV) nominated by Mary Pazeotopoulos (Chapter 32, District 22).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Katherine Karafotias** was declared Grand Governor Zone IV elect by acclamation.

**Grand Governor Zone V:**

Vasilia Kachmarski PCP (Chapter 295, District 24) nominated by Mary Pazeotopoulos (Chapter 32, District 22).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Vasilia Kachmarski** was declared Grand Governor Zone V elect by acclamation.

**Grand Advisor Maids of Athena:**

Kathy Zotos (Grand Advisor MOA) nominated by Patricia Makarounas (Chapter 50, District 12).

Accepted

There being no other nominations, **Kathy Zotos** was declared Grand Advisor Maids of Athena elect by acclamation.

A motion was made by Georgette Boulegeris (Chapter 229, District 5) to dispense with candidate speeches with the exception of Grand President elect. Seconded by Antoinette Marousis-Zachariades (Chapter 195, District 5).

**Motion Defeated**

Since all offices were unopposed and elected by acclamation, no elections will be held on Friday morning.

Jan Spanos, Grand President elect, made her presentation.

*(A break in presentations was taken for a presentation by the President of AHEPA Housing Management.)*



Grand President Pilallis introduced and thanked Arthur Poly, President of AHEPA Housing Management, which gives \$10,000 each year to both the Sons and Maids. She presented a gift to him.

*(The presentations by the officers elect proceeded.)*

Eva Jean Fomalont, Grand Vice President elect  
Diane Petersen, Grand Secretary elect  
Aspa Kostopoulos, Grand Treasurer elect  
Lili Respass, Grand Governor Zone I elect  
Dorothea Williams, Grand Governor Zone II elect

*(The presentations by the officers elect were suspended for remarks by AHEPA Supreme President John Galanis.)*

### **AHEPA Family Presidents' Reports**

Grand President Pilallis welcomed AHEPA Supreme President John Galanis to the dais and thanked him for his advocacy of the Daughters of Penelope. She presented gifts on behalf of the 2015-2016 Lodge.

Supreme President Galanis praised Grand President Connie and told of how well the Orders had worked together. He commented that when he speaks of AHEPA, he is referring to all orders, not just Ahepans as we all have the same needs. His wife, Pat Galanis, presented Grand President Pilallis a gift of appreciation from her and Supreme President Galanis.

*(The presentations by the remaining officers continued.)*

Kathy Papadimitropoulos, Grand Governor Zone III elect  
Katherine Karafotias, Grand Governor Zone IV elect  
Vasilia Kachmarski, Grand Governor Zone V elect  
Kathy Zotos, Grand Advisor Maids of Athena

**10:20 – Meeting recessed**

**10:37 – Meeting reconvened**

***Credentials Report:***

***Voting Strength: 159***

***Time: 10:40a.m.***

Prior to the committee report on Projects, PGP Anna Helene Grossomanides with several of the Past Grand Presidents reminded the Convention that yesterday for the vote held for Legislation on the Constitutional change regarding the number of mandatory projects, a two-thirds vote was required and suggested that it be put before the Convention to make the decision for a revote.

PGP Barbara Stavis Wolf moved that we reconsider the legislation, that it be properly explained to the delegation that it is a Constitutional change and therefore requires a two-thirds vote, that the vote be taken accordingly, and that the vote be recorded accordingly. Seconded by PGP Anna Helene Grossomanides.

**Motion Carried**

The legislation being reconsidered is as follows:

ARTICLE XVI, THE SUPREME CONVENTION, Section 14. (h.) Powers of the Supreme Convention –

Section 14. The powers and duties of the Supreme Convention of this Order shall be:

*Currently Reads:* (h.) To select no more than three mandatory national projects.

*Proposed Change:* (h.) To select no more than two mandatory national projects.

*Rationale:* Limiting number of mandatory project choices, increases amount of donation to projects and in turn gives better recognition, and impact; strengthens the core mission of the organization with a more focused undertaking; allows chapters to connect with local community projects without encumbrance of supporting several national mandatory projects.

A revote with the show of hands was called for.

### **Motion Defeated**

The Parliamentarian recommended that since the legislation was changed, that the Projects Committee reconvene and that they give their report at the start of Friday morning's business session.

*(The Business Session was temporarily suspended for a special speaker.)*

### **Special Remarks:**

Mr. Louis Zagami from International Orthodox Christian Charities addressed the delegation. IOCC is the humanitarian agency of the Orthodox Church providing disaster assistance, natural or man-made. Some of their largest projects right now include Syria, countries in Africa, and Greece. In the last five years they have distributed over \$25 million in aid to Greece, much of which has been in medical supplies which AHEPA has helped subsidize. He asked that we consider IOCC in our giving both as an organization and as individuals.

*(The Business Session continued.)*

### **Committee Report:**

Projects – Chairman Kathryn Tripodis (Chapter 355, District 11) presented the report from the second meeting held Wednesday morning, which included a seventh project that had been omitted during the Tuesday meeting. The meeting on Wednesday complied with the legislation passed requiring no more than two mandatory national projects, however this legislation had just been defeated on a revote, allowing up to three mandatory projects. During the committee meeting two mandatory projects were chosen (Penelope House and DOP Foundation) and two voluntary projects were tied (Melissa's Orphanage and Penelope's Place) for what could become the third mandatory project now allowed by legislation.

Chairman Tripodis moved that the delegation vote to break the tie between Melissa's Orphanage and Penelope's Place, the winner then would become the third mandatory project.

### **No Action Taken**

PGP Evellyn Tsiadis (Chapter 229, District 5) moved to table the report of the Project Committee until after they have time to reconvene and provide a new report. PGP Elaine Kevgas (District 8) seconded.

**Motion Carried**

Announcement from the Chair: PGP Tina Zoumboulis (Chapter 330, District 20) was welcomed.

The opportunity was presented by Chairman Kachmarski for those Sisters, Chapters, Districts that had items to sell to come to the front of the room and to share them with the delegation.

The following announcements were made:

- The Project Committee will meet at 12:00 noon in the Barbados Room
- Banquet tickets will be available at 12:30 p.m. in Trinidad A; the DOP District Governor should pick up if there is no AHEPA District Governor in attendance
- Grand President Pilallis suggested that whatever is voted upon by the Projects Committee should stand regardless of how many of the original committee members are in attendance
- Salute to Women in the Montego Ballroom from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**11:40 a.m. – Meeting recessed**

*Daughters of Penelope  
86<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention  
The Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Friday, July 29, 2016*

**9:16 a.m. – Meeting reconvened**

***Credentials Report:***

***Voting strength: 97***

***Time: 9:16 a.m.***

PGP Karen Stamatiades (Chapter 53, District 1) and PGP Evellyn Tsiadis (Chapter 229, District 5) thanked all those who attended the Salute to Women Thursday afternoon to honor gymnast Shannon Miller.

**Committee Report:**

Projects – Chairman Kathryn Tripodis presented the committee’s report:

Mandatory Projects:

- Penelope House
- Penelope Place
- Sjogren’s Syndrome Foundation

Voluntary Projects:

- Penelopean Day Care Center
- Limbitless Solutions
- Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.
- Melissa’s Orphanage

The committee made the following recommendation to be sent to Legislation:

- That the four following projects be added as (national) mandatory obligations: Penelope House, Penelope Place, DOP Foundation, and the Penelopean Day Care center.
- The project committee would choose no more than two mandatory projects for the year.

On behalf of the committee she so moved.

**Motion Carried**

***Credentials Report:***

***Voting strength: 106***

***Time: 9:30 a.m.***

**Announcement of National Project Donations:**

Grand President Pilallis proceeded to present the donation checks to the mandatory and voluntary projects, and national obligations:

- Penelope House \$9,506.40
- Penelope Place \$7,346.40
- Foundation Scholarship \$7,084.75
- Maids of Athena \$8,169.00

- Daughters of Penelope Foundation      \$3,776.97
- Penelopean Day Care Center            \$5,714.98
- Melissa’s Orphanage                      \$4,677.97
- Silvester Cancer Center                  \$2,965.65
- Sjogren’s Foundation                      \$6,827.27

***Credentials report:***

***Voting Strength: 115***

***Time: 9:50 a.m.***

**Grand President’s Special Presentations:**

The Grand President then presented certificates of merit and thanked the Convention officers, sentinels, tellers, credentials chairman, national committee chairmen, and Executive Director for their service.

**Good of the Order:**

Among the comments of congratulations and appreciation, as well as announcements by many of the Sisters were the best wishes sent from Zoe Rummel who celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in December; the invitation to visit from the President of Chapter 435 in Melbourne, Australia; and the appreciation of the Greek representative of the Penelopean Day Care Center.

Motion to adjourn was made by Georgette Boulegeris (Chapter 229, District 5) and seconded by Christine Andrews (Chapter 268, District 24).

**Motion Carried**

**10:25 – Adjournment of 2016 Supreme Convention**