

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT 20 CONVENTION MINUTES
Reno, Nevada
June 9-12, 2024

WRDC Joint session for Districts 20, 21 and 22 began at 9:15AM followed by the Joint District 20 session at beginning at 11:40. No morning sessions for the Daughters occurred as scheduled.

The Daughters of Penelope (DOP) official Opening of the business session in 2024 was conducted by District Governor Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 at 2:10 PM June 10th. A booklet with the agenda, 2023 convention minutes, district lodge, and chapter reports, was distributed to the 20 sisters present. Carol reviewed the procedures and rules by which convention meetings are conducted. She encouraged us to work and socialize together during the evening events.

LTG Linda Kotsakis, #340 **escorted** the Grand Governor of Zone IV Linda Belba into the room.

The **opening prayer** was offered by District Marshal Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380. **Past District Governors** (PDG), Georgia Souris, Aegina #340, Adrienne Bell, Philia #380 and Pam Martinez Aegina #340 were introduced. Current DG Carol Stathopoulos is also a PDG.

Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 **moved** to seat Marianne Bouris, Helenos #432 as a delegate. Linda Kotsakis, Aegina #340 seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Georgia Souris PDG, Aegina #340 was appointed at the **parliamentarian**. Georgia Souris PDG, Aegina #340 and Rebecca Souris District Maids of Athena, Aegina #340 were appointed as **sentinels**. PDG Pam Martinez and District Marshal Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380 were appointed **tellers**.

Roll call of Delegates Voting strength at 2:30PM was 18.

Election of Convention Officers:

Convention Chairman: Sofie Batshoun, Minos#159 Nominated by PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340.

Convention Vice-Chairman: LTG Linda Kotsakis, Aegina #340 Nominated by DS Mary Pruitt, Minos #159

Convention Secretary: DS Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 Nominated by Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159

Oath was administered by DG, Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340

Adoption of Convention Agenda: PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 **moved** to accept the agenda as presented with any necessary changes. DG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Adoption of Convention Minutes: DS Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 **moved** to accept the minutes for 2023 as published. LTG Linda Kotsakis, Aegina #340 seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DM Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380 offered the **memorial service** for our departed sisters.

Carrie Nicholeris
Gloria Corcovelos
Sophia Zemke

HYPERIA #94
AEGINA #340
AEGINA #340

Past Grand President Joanne Booras escorted Grand President Marianthi Treppiedi into the meeting.

Announcement of Committee Chairs:

- Budget: DT Rene Grevas, Philia #380.
- Convention City handled in the AHEPA joint meeting.
- District Project: Michele Lotakis Aegina #340.
- Nominations: DMOA Rebecca Souris, Aegina #340.
- Penelope of the year: DG Carol Stathopoulos Aegina #340.
- Legislation, Maids of Athena, Growth & Expansion, Community Relations / Communications / Internet and Ways & Means will be discussed during Open Forum.

Linda Belba, **Grand Governor of Zone IV** addressed the assembly encouraging us to review discussions thoughtfully and plan ahead; always being kind, thoughtful and listening well. Our mothers gave us a good foundation for this organization. Participation is everything. She reported District 20 DOP has 13 chapters beginning in 1935 and the latest addition in 2014. This year we added 30 new initiates and 21 reinstatements bringing a total of 277 members, slightly under last year's totals. We are a 501C8 organization providing chapters with tax and religious benefits. We need to have a written acknowledgement for taxes. If a chapter has more than \$50,000 it may not be chartered under the annual form submitted by headquarters. The DOP also has a foundation making grants for philanthropy. Grand Governor Linda discussed the calendar. Dues cover January to December, but the fiscal year ends in July. Audits are conducted in March and National mandates are due then. Many chapters pay their dues by March, but they can be sent in June. Budgets for the year include office expenses and salaries. Chapters meet from September through June. National obligations include a permanent obligation (3 Penelopean named charities) with a \$30 minimum donation. The other obligations are done at the convention. She presented DG Carol with a certificate on behalf of the National Lodge. DG Carol presented GG Linda with a \$50 donation in her honor to District 21's Daughters Scholarship fund.

A **Recess** was called at 4:05PM.

The meeting reconvened June 11,2024 at 9:15AM. The voting strength 18.

District Governor's Report: District Governor Carol Stathopoulos offered her Report. She did not read the report presented in the booklet and thanked District Secretary Mary for working with her to produce the booklet. Carol has been active in the Daughters for 45 years. She feels the sisterhood has been important to her, working with women brought in by their mothers. Her mother and she joined together to be with skillful and generous sisters. She was raised in the Delos chapter and mentored by Mary Chiccos, Eros#1. She met Paula Alexander poolside at a district convention and talked about procedures and protocol. Carol was the District Governor when AHEPA voted to sponsor a float in the Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena. She spent hours gluing on petals. The Daughter's immediately embraced the concept of AHEPA family, but it took the men another 5-10 years. Even today some men resist. She suggests we act with humility and learn something at each event. At National conventions she has been chairman, vice chair, committee chairs and does whatever she has been asked to do. Again, she thanked all of us.

Committee Reports:

Convention /Conference Cities: Liaison discussed in the District 20 joint session.

District Project: Chair Michele Lotakis Aegina #340 reported. Her committee including Cynthia Bekiaris, Helenos #432, Stella Schiewe, Minos #159, Theresa Fardelos, Aegina #340, and District Secretary Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 discussed having chapters prepare future request to be presented for addition projects. This year the only project presented was "Water by Women". It was suggested that we continue Water by Women for many years. During the discussion, PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340, asked about the relationship with the Tanzania project sponsored by the Ahepa. Michele explained theirs was logistics, digging and repairing wells while ours focused on cleaning water that is available. The report was accepted unanimously. Michele handed out three flyers: one of the website, one on Ribbed Crochet Water filter socks and one a WBW craft project to clean out syringes. Two million die each year from unclean water. Too often they must choose among food, school supplies, or medicine. Bottled water is expensive and environment unfriendly. This project requires a five-gallon container and is guaranteed for a lifetime. For \$75 one mother can give three other families clean water. For \$600 125 families can be served.

Penelope of the Year: Chair DG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340. Committee was Athena Pallas, Amphitrite #151, Nancy Angelos, Minos #159 and District Marshal Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380. Carol read Mari Giannopoulos's application. Mari is well known and deserving. She is a 17-year member, serving as president, vice president, treasurer and committee chairs in her chapter. She represented them at HMDS. Her application was typed and complete She is a member of Minos #159. Carol reminded us that there is a five-year cycle to re-apply.

Budget: District Treasurer Rene Grevas, Philia #380 Committee members were LT Governor Linda Kotsakis, #340, Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159, Matoula Batshoun, Minos #159 and Mercie Dahlgren, Aegina #340. Renee distributed the audit report from the May 19,2024 audit. The second issue they discussed was an actual cost of \$920 with a budget amount of \$600. Sofie was only paid the budgeted amount even though she

took a red-eye and did not stay in a hotel. Renee recommended the difference be paid. PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 so moved : LTG Linda Kotsakis, Aegina #340 seconded the **motion**. It passed unanimously.

The meeting was interrupted to address the WRDC discussion for 2027. DG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 spoke in favor of the motion. PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 seconded the **motion**. Motion carried.

The budget report continued – purchasing the full set of Jewels for \$825. DG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 recommended the budget include the cost of the jewels, PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 so moved. It passed unanimously. We discussed the proposed budget line by line making suggestions and voting to increase the prize money for the raffle per the committee \$500 first prize, \$250 second prize and \$150 third prize asking each chapter to sell tickets in their community. We have 11 active chapters even though National still lists two chapters that have gone dark.

The meeting was interrupted again by Costa Tzavaras from the AHEPA to confirm our WRDC frequency vote.

When we resumed the budget committee report. Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 moved to increase the registration (line 16) to \$1,600. DS Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 seconded the motion. Motion carried. PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 moved to increase DG Sup. Conv, reg & travel to \$3,000. Matoula Batshoun, Minos #159 seconded the **motion**. Motion carried.

The meeting was interrupted by Joanna Xipa from NEO magazine.

We voted to accept the budget committee report and asked that a final budget reflecting the proposed changes be prepared.

Maids of Athena: Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 offered a suggestion that each Daughters' chapter pursue teams for the Hellenic tournament as a means of getting young people more involved. We currently have no Maids chapters in our district.

Growth and Expansion: DG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 and LTG Linda Kotsakis, Aegina #340 visited Tucson and revived that chapter by initiating 12 new members and re-instating 6. They have become a thriving chapter influenced by our scholarship opportunities. Anthos #395 in Redondo Beach is restored after their chapter president and vice president jointly resigned. National is getting better at updating membership records, communication via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts.

Ways and Means: DG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 recommended we have chapters post their reports on the website. Chapters are having fundraisers all year long. Review the last 22 pages of the Agenda book to see all the chapter ideas. DS Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 handed the attendees the chapter #151 report as a separate handout.

Legislation: no suggestions offered as a discussion.

Sisters DT Rene Grevas, Philia #380 and Mercie Dahlgren, Aegina #340 will update the budget committee report.

We recessed at 11:25 AM

Afternoon Business Session Tuesday June 10, 2024

Convention Chairman Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 called the session to order at 2:00 PM. Credentials Report: Voting strength was 18.

Rene Grevas, Philia #380 was recalled for the budget committee report. She presented the 33 item budget showing income at \$11,180 having added \$1,000 from the 2024 convention and a corresponding distribution \$11,180 for projected expenses.

Elections/Nominations Report: Rebecca Souris DMOA, Aegina #340 chaired the committee of PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340, PDG Adrienne Bell, Philia #380, and Marianne Bouris, Helenos #432. The nominating committee presented the following slate:

District Governor Krystal Sofia Batshoun, Minos #159
District Lt. Governor Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340
District Secretary Mercie Nicholas Dahlgren, Aegina #340
District Treasurer Irene Marie Grevas, Philia #380
District Marshal Yvonne Brinton, Amphitrite #151
Advisor MOA_Nikki Kopan, Philia #380

District Secretary Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 **moved** to accept the report as presented. Mercie Nicholas Dahlgren, Aegina #340 seconded. Motion carried.

Committee chair Rebecca Souris DMOA, Aegina #340 called for further nominations. District Marshal Peleleilani Snyder Philia #380 was nominated by Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340.

Ballots were distributed to vote for either Yvonne Brinton, Amphitrite #151 or Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380. Since one of the candidates is a teller, DS Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 acted as the second teller with PDG Pam Martinez, Aegina #340. Eighteen ballots were counted and given to the chair. She announced the election results. Peleleilani Snyder Philia #380 has been elected. The ballots will be destroyed by the chair.

Convention Chairman Sofie Batshoun #159 **declared the elected officers for 2024/2025.**

District. Governor. Krystal Sofia Batshoun, Minos#159
District Lieutenant Governor. Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340
District Secretary Mercie Nicholas Dahlgren, Aegina #340
District Treasurer Irene Marie Grevas, Philia #380
District Marshall Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380

Advisor MOA: Nikki Kopan, Philia #380
Advisor DOP Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340

The **Oath of Office** to the District Lodge was administered by Grand President Marianthi Treppiedi.

Address of Grand President Marianthi Treppiedi. Wear your Jewels in confidence, believe in what you do, call on your sisters, and pay your obligations.

Good of the Order and Special Presentations: Carol gave each of the exiting board members a certificate and a Daughters of Penelope mug which supports service dogs. She is looking forward to Sofie's reign. Sofie was given a certificate.

- Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 thanked everyone for coming and participating. She is looking forward to being the Past District Governor and advisor.
- PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 thanked the committees, the chairpersons, and all delegates who made the convention a reality.
- Cynthia Bekiaris, Helenos #432 invited us to attend the Helenos fundraiser Nov 16th in Phoenix.
- Mary Pruitt, Minos #159 offered two Greek words (thank you and sorry) for all the help and all the bugging to get inputs and for handing out the last report separately.
- Peleleilani Snyder Philia #380 encouraged us to give ourselves to others.

Closing Prayer: Convention closing prayer was read by DM Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380.

Adjournment: The convention was adjourned at 3:05PM

Respectfully submitted.



Mary L. Pruitt
Convention Secretary

Delegate List - Daughters of Penelope					
Attendance		District #20		June 2024	
District Lodge	Name	Mon AM	Mon PM	Tues AM	Tues PM
Governor	Carol Stathopoulos, PDG		X	X	X
Lt. Governor	Linda Kotsakis		X	X	X
Secretary	Mary Pruitt		X	X	X
Treasurer	Rene Grevas		X	X	X
Marshal	Leilani Synder		X	X	X
DOP Advisor	Adrienne Bell, PDG		X	X	X
Maids Advisor	Rebecca Souris		X	X	X
Chapter Name & Number	Past District Governors				
Aegina #340	Georgia Souris,PDG		X	X	X
Aegina #340	Pam Martinez,PDG		X	X	X
Chapter Name & Number	Delegates				
Amphitrite #151	Athena Pallas		X	X	X
Minos #159	Nancy Angelos		X	X	X
Minos #159	Sofie Batshoun		X	X	X
Minos #159	Matoula Batshoun		X	X	X
Minos #159	Stella Schiewe		X	X	X
Aegina #340	Mercie Dahlgren		X	X	X
Aegina #340	Theresa Fardelos		X	X	X
Aegina #340	Michele Lotakis		X	X	X
Helenos #432	Marianne Bouris		X	X	X
Helenos #432	Cynthia Foutris Bekiaris		X	X	X
Chapter Name & Number	Observers				
Chapter Name & Number	Alternates				
Delegates			18	18	18
Guest			1	1	1
Totals			19	19	19

