

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT 20 CONVENTION MINUTES

Tucson, Arizona

June 5-6, 2026

The opening ceremonies for the District 20 convention began at 9:15AM followed by separate business sessions for the AHEPANs and Daughters of Penelope (DOP).

The Daughters of Penelope official opening of the business session in 2026 was conducted by District Governor (DG) Krystal Sofie (Sofie) Batshoun, Minos #159, at 10:10 AM on June 5th. A booklet with the agenda, 2025 convention minutes, District Lodge, and chapter reports was distributed to the delegates and guests present.

District Marshal (DM) Peleleilani Synder, Philia #380, escorted the Grand Governor (GG) Zone III, Helen Santire into the room.

The opening prayer was offered by DM Peleleilani Synder, Philia #380.

Past District Governors (PDG) Georgia Souris, Aegina #340, Robbie Jackson, Phoebus #146, and Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 were introduced by DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159. Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 was announced as the 2015 National Penelope of the Year.

Georgia Souris, PDG, Aegina #340, was appointed as the **Parliamentarian**. Mary Pruitt, Minos #159, and Georgia Lipane, Helenos #432 were appointed as **Sentinels**. Nancy Jimmerson, Phoebus #146, and Christina Yarmak, Helenos #432 were appointed **Tellers**.

Roll call of Delegates: Voting Strength: 23, Observers: 2

Election of Convention Officers:

- **Convention Chairman:** LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340, was nominated by DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159
- **Convention Vice-Chairman:** DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159, was nominated by LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340
- **Convention Secretary:** DS/DT Nikki Kopan, Philia #380, was nominated by Elly Kopan, Philia #380

Oath of office was administered by GG Zone III, Helen Santire.

Adoption of Convention Agenda: Robbie Jackson, Phoebus #146, **moved** to accept the agenda as presented with any necessary changes. PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Convention Minutes: Mary Pruitt, Minos #159, **moved** to accept the minutes for 2025 as published. Stephanie Moreno, Minos #159, seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcement of Committee Chairs:

- Budget: District Secretary (DS) /Treasurer (DT) Nikki Kopan, Philia #380
- Convention/Conference Cities Liaison: Theresa Fardelos, Aegina #340
- District Project: LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340
- Penelope of the Year: PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340
- Elections/Nominations, Legislation, Maids of Athena, Growth & Expansion, Community Relations / Communications / Internet and Ways & Means will be discussed during Open Forum.

Open Forum Committees:

Growth and Expansion: DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 reported that District 20 currently has 315 members, 253 members (80%) are paid for 2026. There were 21 new members, and 5 reinstatements.

Three chapters initiated four or more new members. DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 presented the chapter presidents, Stephanie Moreno, Minos #159, Theresa Fardelos, Aegina #340, and Nikki Kopan, Philia #380 with Certificates of Recognition.

Maids of Athena: (MOA) There are currently no MOA chapters in District 20. There is one 16-year-old MOA-at-large in California. MOA is for 14-28 years. A chapter can be created once there are enough ladies to form one. In the meantime, women who are 18 years-old can join DOP. If a MOA chapter is formed, those ladies could dual member MOA/DOP, if they choose. Their MOA chapter would be their primary chapter (voting power) and DOP would be their secondary chapter (observer).

Audit Report: Audit Chair: Rene Grevas, Philia #380. The audit report from May 17, 2026, was presented by DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 on behalf of Rene Grevas, Philia #380 who was unable to attend. The audit was conducted by Nicki Cometa, Philia #380, with Audit Chair Rene Grevas, Philia #380 and DS/DT Nikki Kopan, Philia #380 present. The bank accounts were found to be reconciled correctly.

Two recommendations were offered:

- Track deposits and checks on an Excel spreadsheet to allow outstanding checks to be more easily identifiable and to provide clarity and description.
- Reimbursement forms be filled out and signed accompanying receipts for all.

DG Sofie Batshoun moved to approve the audit report on behalf of the Audit chair.

Motion carried.

Community Relation/Communication/Internet: Convention Chair, LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 spoke on communication. She hopes that chapters have a communications and/or publicity committee or chair. The floor was opened for suggestions. PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 spoke on the District Lodge Facebook and Instagram pages. At the Midwinter Conference in January 2026, Brother Wynn Storton, AHEPA #528 spoke about starting a District newspaper. He will come in and provide more information later.

Ways and Means:

LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina 340, spoke on how she was confused on the definition of ways and means when she first joined. She asked Robbie Jackson, Phoebus, #146 to expand further on this topic. Ways and means is a way for the District to augment the budget. Many districts have a separate District project to fund the district, not just philanthropy funds. For example, many districts will have a 50/50 drawing where half the money collected will go to district and half the money will go to the winner. Other District projects/fundraisers include items, such as books, watches, etc.

LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 asked the chapter presidents or a representative present from each chapter to speak on some of their fundraisers that were listed in the convention booklets under the chapter reports.

Breakout out sessions for the committees headed by each committee chair were from 11:00AM to 12:00PM

A Recess was called at 12:00PM

Afternoon Business Session

Convention Chairman, LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340, called the session to order at 2:02PM. Credentials Report: Voting strength was 23.

District Governor's Report: DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159, encouraged everyone to take a moment to read her report in the convention booklet rather than read it to the assembly.

Committee Reports:

District Project: Committee Chair: LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340

Committee members: Denise Manos, Minos #159, Christina Yarmak, Helenos #432, DeeDee Orcutt, Phoebus #146, Dianne Evripidou, Aegina #340, Linda Kotsakis, Aegina #340, and Mary Pruitt, Minos #159.

One project was presented: "Water by Women" (WBW) with a focus on the Navajo Nation. LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 motioned to accept the Water By Women – Navajo Nation project as the 2026-27 District project. The report was accepted unanimously. Motion carries.

The work to bring water filtration systems to the Navajo people is all made possible through the dedicated services of three Navajo women who serve as WBW Team Navajo. They are well respected spiritual and health leaders who provide WBW filter training at health fairs and to individuals.

Penelope of the Year: Committee Chair: PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340. Committee members: Nancy Jimmerson, Phoebus #146, Cynthia Bekiaris, Helenos #432, Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380, and Stephanie Moreno, Minos #159.

PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 spoke about how several Sisters have said they do not want to fill out the application. She recommends to Sisters that everyone keep a log of everything they do as part of DOP, similar to a resume. In September, chapter presidents can hand out a copy of the application to the chapter members.

Only one application was received this year. PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340, read the application and it was approved. The District Penelope of the Year is Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340. Axia!

PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 moves to accept the Penelope of the Year report. Motion carried.

Legislation: DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159
No legislation has been received by the district.

District Newsletter Presentation:

Brother Wynn Storton, AHEPA #528, asked for a moment to speak at the meeting. He is responsible for the District Newsletter. He would like to start a District 20 paper magazine/newspaper publication published quarterly. He will need support from both the AHEPA and DOP orders due to cost. He would like to include stories of DOP Sisters and AHEPANs and eventually Sons and Maids, if we expand. A committee comprised of Daughters and AHEPANs will be created to work on the publication with the District Secretaries as the liaisons (similar to the Scholarship Foundation).

LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340, motioned to adjourn the business meeting. Mary Pruitt, Minos #159, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:52PM.

Convention Chairman, LTG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340, opened the Saturday morning business session at 09:13 AM on June 6th, 2026.

Credentials Report: Voting Strength: 22 at 09:15AM

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

- Nikki Cozakos PHILIA #380
- Mari Giannopoulos MINOS #159
- Anthea Dryer HELENOS #432
- Georgia Skalkotos PANOPE #162
- Danke Schmidt HYPERIA #094
- Chrys Lynn Kotzambasis PHOEBUS #146

Budget: Committee chair: DS/DT Nikki Kopan, Philia #380

Committee members: Georgia Lipane, Helenos #432, Mercie Dahlgren, Aegina #340, PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340, Elly Kopan, Philia #380, Observer: Robbie Jackson, Phoebus #146.

DS/DT Nikki Kopan, Philia #380, presented the district finances: Checking: \$19,812.30, Savings: \$1,125.28, CD \$5,573.88 (renews in July 2026). Total: \$26,511.46.

At the District Convention in 2025, it was decided to switch the fiscal year from June 1st to May 31st, to September 1st to August 31st, to match the National fiscal year. Due to the switch, the 2025-26 budget covered a 15-month period, instead of the usual 12-month period. This included two Supreme Conventions for both 2025 and 2026. The new budget for 2026-2027 will cover the 12-month period from September 1st 2026 to August 31st 2027.

The District Budget for 2025-2026 was presented. All totals are as of June 6th, 2026. Actual budget: Total Receipts: \$15,634.16, total Disbursements: \$12,589.07. Line 18 and Line 20 totals will be determined after completion of the District Convention and second Supreme Convention, respectively. The proposed District Budget for 2026-2027 was then presented and the floor was opened for comments. District Secretary/Treasurer Nikki moved to accept the budget of \$10,920 for 2026-2027. Motion Carried. *Budget for 2026-2027 is in a separate document.*

Elections/Nominations:

Convention Vice Chairman Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 called for officer nominations for 2026-2027:

- District Governor: Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 was nominated by Theresa Fardelos, Aegina #340. There were no other nominations.
- District Lt. Governor: Nikki Kopan, Philia #380, was nominated Elly Kopan, Philia #380. There were no other nominations.
- District Secretary: Cynthia Bekiaris, Helenos #432, was nominated by Christina Yarmak, Helenos #432. There were no other nominations.
- District Treasurer: Georgia Lipane, Helenos #432, was nominated by Matoula Batshoun, Minos #159. There were no other nominations.
- District Marshal: Despina Walter, Philia #380 sent in a Letter of Intent to DG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159, which was read to the delegation. There were no other nominations for the position.

DG Krystal Sofia Batshoun, Minos #159 will be the combined DOP Advisor and Maids of Athena Advisor as the new PDG.

Convention Vice Chairman, Krystal Sofia Batshoun, Minos #159 announced the elected officers for 2026-2027.

- District Governor: Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340
- District Lt. Governor: Nikki Kopan, Philia #380,
- District Secretary: Cynthia Bekiaris, Helenos #432
- District Treasurer: Georgia Lipane, Helenos #432
- District Marshal: Despina Walter, Philia #380
- Advisor DOP/Advisor MOA: Krystal Sofia Batshoun, Minos #159

The Oath of Office to the District Lodge was administered by GG Zone III Helen Santire to all elected officers present. Newly elected District Marshal, Despina Walter, Philia #380 was absent and will be installed at a later date by LTG Nikki Kopan, Philia #380 at their first meeting in the Fall.

Special Presentations:

PDG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159, pinned the new District Governor, Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340, with the DG pin.

DG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 pinned new Past District Governor, Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159, with the PDG pin.

GG Zone III Helen Santire addressed the assembly. She gave the history of DOP and how the Sisterhood has grown to a global organization. She encouraged everyone to remain true to their principles as only then will everyone be successful. The 3 characteristics of Sisterhood are unity, mutual respect, and shared purpose.

GG Zone III Helen Santire gave a Certificate of Merit to PDG Sofie Batshoun in appreciation of all that she has done. She also made a \$200 donation to the District 20 El Camino Real Scholarship Foundation and presented it to the President of the Scholarship Foundation, PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340. She presented new DG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340 with a Christmas ornament.

PDG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 gave each of the 2025-2026 Lodge members a Certificate of Appreciation and gift. GG Zone III Helen Santire was presented with a gift and a donation to the District Scholarship Fund for District 16.

Lastly, PDG Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 brought out cupcakes and everyone wished a Happy 72nd Birthday to Nancy Jimmerson, Phoebus #146 and Dianne Evripidou, Aegina #340!

She also received word that GG Zone IV Cathy Keyser had her first grandchild today! Mom and Baby Brady are doing well.

Good of the Order

- New DG Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340, addressed the order.
- PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340, passed on well wishes to the Sisters of District 20 from PGP Georgette Boulegeris.
- Linda Kotsakis, Aegina #340, liked the opportunity presented by Brother Wynn Storton and suggested we put biographies of Sisters in the upcoming paper newspaper to get to know them better.
- Kynthia Furgis, Anthos #395, stated how she loves this organization and her chapter. She is truly inspired by how much we have done.

- Mary Pruitt, Minos #159, thanked the host city and Lodge both incoming and outgoing. She also mentioned that she will be arranging an Uber to the Tucson airport tomorrow morning, if anyone else needs a ride.
- Julie Karoutas, Helenos #432, thanked the DOP/AHEPANs Convention committee for putting on this District Convention. She is so proud of them. She asked for a moment of silence for a young lady she knew from Tucson who lost her life.
- Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380 said that this group is special and her accomplishments are from God.
- PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 spoke about how Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380 taught Hula at the Sisterhood Conference. She invited everyone to come to Sisterhood next time.

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

Adjournment: The convention was adjourned at 10:55AM

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Kopan
Convention Secretary

Delegate List - Daughters of Penelope Attendance District #20 May 2025				
District Lodge	Name	Fri AM	Fri PM	Sat AM
Governor	Sofie Batshoun	x	x	x
Lt. Governor	Michele Lotakis	x	x	x
Secretary/Treasurer	Nikki Kopan	x	x	x
Marshal	Peleilani Synder	x	x	x
DOP/MOA Advisor	Carol Stathopoulos, PDG	x	x	x
Chapter Name & Number	Past District Governors			
Aegina #340	Georgia Souris, PDG	x	x	x
Chapter Name & Number	Delegates (Voting Power)			
Phoebus #146	Nancy Jimmerson	x	x	x
Phoebus #146	DeeDee Orcutt	x	x	x
Minos #159	Mary Pruitt	x	x	x
Minos #159	Matoula Batshoun	x	x	x
Minos #159	Denise Manos	x	x	x
Minos #159	Bobbie Soupos	x	x	x
Minos #159	Stephanie Moreno	x	x	x
Aegina #340	Teresa Fardelos	x	x	x
Aegina #340	Mercie Dahlgren	x	x	x
Aegina #340	Waunita Parrill	x	-	x
Aegina #340	Dianne Evripidou	x	x	x
Aegina #340	Linda Kotsakis	x	x	x
Philia #380	Elly Kopan	x	x	x
Helenos #432	Cynthia Bekiaris	x	x	x
Helenos #432	Georgia Lipane	x	x	x
Helenos #432	Christina Yarmak	x	x	x
Helenos #432	Julie Karoutas	x	x	x
Amphitrite #151	Athena Pallas	x	x	x
Chapter Name & Number	Observers			
Minos #159	Marcelle Lambropoulos	x	x	-
Phoebus #146	Robbie Jackson	x	x	x
Anthos #395	Kynthia Furgis	-	x	x
Delegates		24	23	24
Observers		2	3	2
Totals		26	26	26