



December 2023

Dear Sisters,

Wishing you and your families a joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter and health!

My second year as Governor has been busy and fulfilling.

On September 23, 2023, I attended the District Governors Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. This year's theme, "Unity in our Community" emphasized the incredible power of unity in our organization. Unity empowers us to achieve great things, from the Grand Lodge to the District Lodge and the individual chapters. It fosters a sense of belonging and purpose, motivating and connecting our members to share their unique gifts and talents.

This year the Grand President's initiative focuses on supporting our seniors through Meals on Wheels. We request that each chapter contact their local community Meals on Wheels organization and find out how we can best assist them. Whether through fundraising or volunteering your time, as Daughters of Penelope, we are a strong commUNITY, and together, we can truly make a difference.

Our Fall Conference was held on October 21, 2023, which you can read more about in the article titled "Daughters of Penelope update on Fall Conference". I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the sisters who attended the Fall Conference in Hartford, CT, and Grand Governor Zone 2 / Liaison D7, Patty Didik from Hudson, FL.

This year's conference was jointly hosted by Hartford AHEPA Chapter 58 and DOP Chapter 198. I'd like to express my gratitude to all the dedicated individuals who worked tirelessly to make the fall conference a success.

This year I focused my chapter outreach on attending as many local chapter events as possible:

09/10/23 – D7 chapter visitation, Eretrea Chapter #138, New Britain, CT

09/21/23 – Attended a delightful Trunk Show Fundraiser, Asteria Chapter #368, Danielson, CT

09/28/23 – Spent the day helping our hard-working sisters of Lysandros Chapter #181, Norwich, CT at their church Greek festival (after not having a festival for 3 years)

10/15/23 – Attended Beer Tasting Fundraiser, Eretrea Chapter #138, New Britain, CT's

11/07/23 – Attended Hartford Chapters' AHEPA Family Turkey Dinner

11/09/23 – Served food and made dessert, South Park Inn homeless shelter

11/19/23 – Attended Founders Day coffee hour and promoted DOP

Below and on the last page of YN are some **Dates to Remember** and mark in your calendars,
01/07/24 - Online Membership Program Workshop for D7 DOP members & officers
01/15/24 - Articles for Penelope's Scroll are due

As a reminder, please send me information about upcoming events and fundraisers. I will post them on our Facebook page and send a monthly email listing the events. I encourage all to attend events outside their chapters to get a broader view of the organization and support each other. Read more about this in the article “**Seizing the Opportunities of Unity**” below.

Yours in Theta Pi, Elisa Marotta



Seizing the Opportunities of Unity

In our journey as a sisterhood, there's a powerful force that fuels our bonds and drives our collective strength: UNITY. It's crucial that we recognize the significance of participating in District events and understand how it reinforces the essence of our sisterhood.

We are not just individual chapters; we are part of something much larger, a network of incredible women who share a common purpose and vision. By limiting ourselves to the confines of our individual chapters, we risk missing out on the invaluable opportunities that await us. District events provide a platform for mingling, enjoying each other's company, fostering camaraderie, and exchanging ideas and fellowship. It's in these shared experiences that our true enthusiasm flourishes.

When we come together at district events, we create a tapestry of collective knowledge, passion, and inspiration. We learn from one another, draw strength from our unity, and gain fresh perspectives that can be transformative. In these moments, we are not just chapters; we are one sisterhood, reinforcing the foundation upon which our organization was built.

I strongly encourage all members to attend conventions and conferences. They are not merely events; they are symbols of our commitment to our sisterhood. Every chapter's presence is essential, for it ensures that chapter officers and members are not only informed, but also aligned with the changes and initiatives set forth for this year. By attending, you are not only representing your chapter, but you're becoming a part of a larger movement. You're becoming a bridge between the unique experiences and traditions of your chapter and the

shared vision of our entire sisterhood. You are a vital link in the chain that unites us and propels us forward.

Let's embrace the spirit of unity and seize this opportunity to celebrate our sisterhood. Together, we are stronger. Together, we flourish. Together, we are unstoppable. I look forward to seeing you all at conferences and conventions, and I am excited to witness the magic that happens when we come together as one.

Daughters of Penelope Update on the Fall Conference



FALL CONFERENCE 2023

Seated: Penny Pecka PDG, D7 Treas, Tina Smith D7 Sec, Marcella Calagias PDG, D7 Lt Gov, Elisa Marotta D7 Gov., Patty Didik Grand Governor Zone 2 / Liaison D7, Liza Pappas PGP, Katina Arnold D7 Marshal, Nitsa Tsipouras #198, Standing: Elaina Varunes Rec Sec #198, Mary Aros #138, Anna Rafti Treas #198, Terry Plumley #138, Artemis . ramanos Treas #138, Seta Marangoudakis #198, Maria Marotta #130, Despina Tsetsos Pres #199, Parthena Yaakob #198, Maria Tougas Pres #198, Loukia Kazakos PDG D7, Helene Moran PDG D7, Sophia Kalaitzidis, Eleni Bouzakis #199, Priscilla Kokinis Corr Sec #198, Stephanie Zapatka #198, Barbara Bellas #198, Barbara Lazaridis #120, Maria Douglas PDG D9 #51, Nancy Geourntas, D8 MOA Advisor #130, Nikki Moutssioulis #51, Aliko Sarantopoulos PDG D8 #349, Sandi Wilcox VP #198, Sophia Koziski D8 Lt Gov #120, Missing in photo: Elaine Kevgas PGP, D8 Gov #330

As last year, the District 7 Daughters of Penelope (DOP) joined forces with DOP Districts 8 and 9 for an exciting fall conference. Although the AHEPA conference was designated for District 7, we decided to unite the DOP tri-districts because coming together in a larger group holds a special value to our small districts. Witnessing the camaraderie and connection among the members was gratifying. The shared sisterhood, meeting members we already know, and making new connections, all add to the charm of a joint event.

I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in the all conference's success. Thank you to the Hartford AHEPA brothers and DOP sisters for their warm hospitality, AHEPA 58 for food arrangements, and Brother Tony Kazakos for his bountiful breakfast. Special thanks to Sister Anna Rafti and her team for their excellent venue preparation. Your dedication is truly appreciated, even if not all contributions can be explicitly mentioned. Your commitment to the organization is invaluable.

We had the pleasure of awarding the District 7 Penelope of the Year Award to Despina Tsetsos and the District 7 Estia Award to Stephanie Zapatka. These recognitions were well-deserved, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations with great enthusiasm!

Brother Glenn Arnold presented an inspiring topic, "Understanding and Engaging AHEPA's and DOP's Multi-generational Organizations for Intergenerational Effectiveness". It's not just about recruiting new members; it's about involving all members and giving them a sense of ownership and purpose. Every generation thrives on being part of something bigger and working for a common purpose within the organization.

The team building activity was a delightful and dynamic experience! Participants were provided with sheets of paper containing questions and answers related to DOP topics. Each person received either a question or an answer, and the challenge was to find the corresponding match. Once the match was made, participants engaged in a conversation with the person holding the complementary question or answer. As everyone successively found their matches, individuals were encouraged to share their Q&A pairs and discuss what they learned about each other. The activity created an open and engaging atmosphere, and it was wonderful to see everyone opening up and connecting.