



May 2024

Dear Sisters,

I hope this message finds you well. Wishing you a bright and cheerful spring! Hope you had a joyous Easter holiday, eagerly anticipating the warmth and sunshine of summer ahead.

As we approach the months of April and May (**chapter election time**), it's essential to remind all chapters that elections are imminent. Upon electing new officers, the chapter election results should be promptly submitted to both DOP Headquarters (HQ) and District 7. This step ensures a smooth transition and allows Headquarters to grant officers access to the Membership application and reports. The process has to be completed before the Supreme Convention so all HQ communications with convention directives and information can begin.

District elections will take place at the **D7 Convention on June 15th**. Encouraging members to identify **candidates for District roles** is vital for our organization's long-term success. By nurturing leadership potential and building a talent pipeline, we ensure a continuous flow of capable individuals ready to lead at various levels.

Fostering leadership development from the chapter, to the district, to the national level strengthens our organization's leadership capacity and ensures continuity in governance.

Having **representation from all or most chapters in the District Lodge** fosters balance in decision-making and guarantees that directives and information from District and Headquarters reach every chapter without oversight.

Promoting opportunities for members from various chapters to take on leadership roles creates a sense of ownership and investment in our organization's success, fostering a vibrant and dynamic organizational culture.

In line with this commitment to leadership development, I'm excited to share Grand Vice President Margaret Dristas' Growth and Expansion initiative, the **Daughters of Penelope Leadership Academy**. The objectives of the Academy are centered on **leadership, education, and mentorship**. We aim to empower our members to enhance their leadership skills, foster a sense of community and support, and provide educational opportunities for personal and organizational growth.

The Academy will feature **online workshops and modules**, with an **emphasis on membership retention and succession planning**. We want to **instill confidence in our members to take on leadership roles**, ensuring the continuity and growth of our organization.

Exciting News: The D7 Yankee News from the past four years is now available on the D7 AHEPA website. Check it out => <https://ahepadistrict7.org/Yankee-News/>

Please note: There hasn't been a February issue since 2020. The February issue would only be printed if the AHEPA/DOP Lodges authorize a Mid-Winter Conference.

As we continue our journey, I've been actively engaged in various activities since our last Yankee News issue deadline. From volunteering at a shelter to celebrating Founder's Day and attending chapter events and visitations, it's been a fulfilling period connecting with our sisters and community.

In closing, let's continue to support one another and nurture our organization's growth, striving for excellence at every turn.

Yours in Theta Pi,

Elisa Marotta



Building Bridges for Tomorrow:

A Recap of the District 7 Convention and the Path Forward

The recent District 7 convention saw an impressive turnout of Daughters of Penelope delegates. We were honored to have Grand Vice President Margaret Dritsas (now Grand President) join us. The highlight was GVP Margaret's keynote address to our AHEPA Family on "Building Bridges for Tomorrow." She emphasized the importance of fostering strong relationships, strategic succession planning, and mentorship for the continuity and growth of our chapters.

In preparing for the convention, I noticed that the Nominating Committee faced challenges in finding willing and prepared candidates to fill the three open District Lodge positions. This underscored the significance of GVP Margaret's DOP Academy, designed to instill confidence in members to take on leadership roles at all levels (chapter, district, and beyond). The Academy offers modules on the organization's mission, conducting business, AHEPA family collaboration, and membership engagement. The more members know, the more comfortable and confident they will feel accepting a position.

To ensure balanced and inclusive representation within District 7, it is crucial that our Lodge officer positions are filled by members from various chapters rather than having a majority from a single chapter.

Importance of Diverse Chapter Representation:

1. **Balanced Decision-Making:** Having officers from different chapters ensures a diversity of perspectives, leading to more balanced and fair decision-making that benefits the entire district.
2. **Enhanced Communication:** A representative from each chapter can effectively communicate the unique needs and concerns of their members, fostering a stronger sense of community and mutual support.
3. **Increased Engagement:** When all chapters have a presence on the Lodge, it encourages greater participation and involvement in district activities, which is essential for the growth and vitality of the organization.

I hope you enjoyed your summer. Don't forget to register for the next DOP Academy session (for All members to learn) by emailing daughtersofpenelopeacademy@gmail.com. Let's start the 2024-2025 year ready to learn and grow!

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Elisa Marotta, PDG / D7 Advisor



Yankee District 7 Convention, June 15, 2024, Waterbury, CT

Seated: Donna Rados PDG, Penny Pecka PDG D7 Treas., Tina Smith D7 Sec., Elisa Marotta DG., Margaret Dritsas GVP, Katina Arnold D7 Marshal, Helene Moran PDG **Standing:** Margo Ricciardi #199, Jennifer DeMatteis #199, Pam MaCauley #181, Julie Koulouris #199, Alexis Koulouris #041, Anna Rafti #198, Athena Androulidakis #138, Maria Valkanos #181, Artemis Karamanos #138, Maria Fatibene #041, Kathy Mitas 041, Theodora Fatibene #041, Kathy Yiannoulis #041, Mary Aros #138, Helen Yeotsas #041, Maria Tougas #198, Nitsa Tsiouras #198