

DOP Headquarters Guide



Daughters of Penelope

Everything You Need To Know About Headquarters and More

Hello and welcome to the Daughters of Penelope! This guidebook is designed to help every Daughter become familiar with what we do at our Supreme Headquarters.

The purpose of this guidebook is to give each member and chapter a better understanding of the procedures that are necessary to follow so as to ensure smooth transactions and correspondence with Headquarters.

For any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at elena@ahempa.org or via telephone at 202-234-9741.

Enjoy!

Love in Theta Pi,

Elena Skardis

Elena V. Skardis

Membership

Membership is vital to our organization therefore it is of extreme importance that this process runs as smoothly as possible. The following list may be helpful to attain perfection:

Q: What is Life Membership?

A: A Daughter of Penelope who has completed fifty years of continuous membership in the Order shall be entitled to Life Membership and shall be declared a Life Member. Per capita payment for members with 50+ continuous years as of the January 1, 1999 date will be waived. Please be aware that members attaining life membership status past this date and thereafter shall be required to pay full chapter dues including per capita.

Q: How do I fill out reinstatement and new membership applications completely?

A: These applications should preferably be typed to avoid any misspellings of a member's name in the system. Be sure to include the ID numbers of those reinstating and the initiation date of new members on these applications so as to avoid blank initiation dates and future confusion.

Q: How should I make chapter roster corrections?

A: The rosters are mailed out along with your chapter's billing twice a year (once in November/December and again in March/April) and are to be returned to headquarters with any corrections.

Q: Can I delete or drop inactive members from the chapter roster?

A: No. There have been several requests to delete members from a chapter's roster. This is a request that headquarters cannot comply with. Apart from the fact that there is always the possibility that a member may return to her original chapter or transfer to another chapter, deleting members from our membership system is not possible at this time. Therefore, headquarters must respectfully continue to deny your request to delete members from chapter rosters.

Penelope's Emporium

◆ Our Penelope's Emporium catalog can be found on our website. All Penelope's Emporium Merchandise is purchased through Headquarters.

◆ ***Orders from the Penelope's Emporium Catalog cannot be taken over the phone or via e-mail.*** Headquarters must first receive the form along with a check for the amount of the order plus shipping in order for merchandise to be mailed. Please refer to the updated order forms on our website when ordering as our prices have changed.



**CHAPTER JEWELS, DISTRICT
JEWELS AND COLLARS WILL BE
AVAILABLE THROUGH PENELOPE'S
EMPORIUM SOON! DETAILS TO
FOLLOW IN FUTURE MAILINGS.**

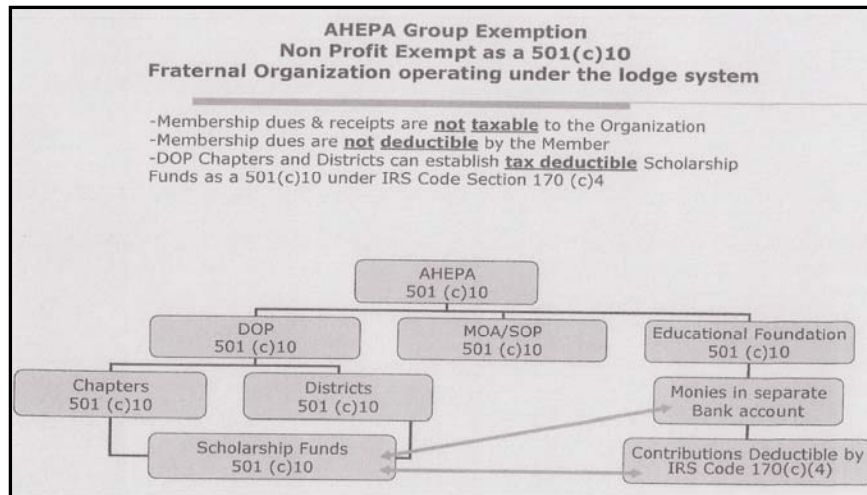
Tax Status

◆ The Order of AHEPA has a group exemption under 501(c)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code, which is granted to a domestic fraternal society, order or association operating under the lodge system with net earnings devoted exclusively to religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational and fraternal purposes and which does not provide for the payment of life, sick, accident or other benefits. Since the Order has a group exemption, all chapters and districts are also treated as exempt organizations under 501(c)(10), as well as the affiliated entities of the Order, such as the Daughters of Penelope, Maids of Athena and Sons of Pericles.

◆ The 501(c)(10) tax exemption only exempts the Daughters of Penelope from paying Income Tax on membership dues **received by your Chapter** from income tax and therefore your chapter dues cannot be deducted from your tax return.

Tax Status, Continued

- ◆ Donations to a 501 (c)(10) organization are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return as long as the Chapter uses the contribution exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes (not fraternal purposes). The Chapter must open up a separate bank account for the receipt and disbursement of these deductible contributions and cannot co-mingle the contributions with Chapter operating funds. If a donor requests a tax exempt number in connection with a contribution, the Chapter should provide a letter informing the donor that the funds were paid to the Daughters of Penelope Chapter #xxx Fund established pursuant to Section 170 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code for educational, charitable or one of the above exempt purposes.
- ◆ The fact that Financial Institutions require Federal ID numbers on accounts is the primary reason for a DOP Chapter to have one. Each chapter must have their own IRS assigned number. A Chapter cannot use the DOP number, just like a daughter cannot use his mother's social security number. DOP Headquarters has a listing of Chapter numbers and can give the Federal ID to a Chapter officer upon request. If a Chapter is in need of and does not have an assigned number, DOP Headquarters will assist the Chapter in filing an SS-4 Form.



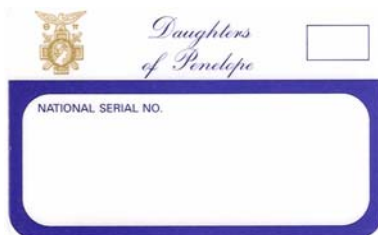
Headquarters Forms

Please adhere to all deadlines and guidelines on all forms so that your chapters are properly recognized at the Supreme Convention and mailings are sent to the appropriate person. All chapter and district forms, as well as other useful information, can be found on our website at www.ahepa.org/dop.

- ◆ **National Obligation Forms:** these forms are due by May 1 of the current year. There should be two separate checks: one for the chapter assessment fee and another for the mandatory and voluntary obligations. Note that the only voluntary obligations are for Cooley's Anemia, Daughters of Penelope Foundation and the AHEPA Bone Marrow Registry. Mandatory Obligations include Penelope House Family Violence Center and The University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Center. Do not forget to include payment for the Maids of Athena fee, which is a minimum of \$25, and the Daughters of Penelope Scholarship fee, which is a minimum of \$30. Payments cannot be processed if they are not submitted correctly.
- ◆ **Return forms such as Chapter Election Forms to headquarters promptly so that our system can be updated.** All mailings go to Chapter Presidents, so it is very important that the right person is recorded with the correct title and address in the system. Chapter presidents should include a valid e-mail address as well on their chapter election forms. If the Chapter President does not have e-mail capabilities, please include an e-mail address of another officer if applicable.

Chapter Billing

- ◆ **Use the Chapter billing Form that is sent to all chapter presidents twice a year (once in January and again in May).** This form states exactly who is required to pay and how much is required of them so as to be up to date with dues. This form is legible and in alphabetical order. If you have new members or do not see members on this form that should have been included, kindly print clearly and in alphabetical order when completing your remittance forms. This allows for a more efficient data entry and payment process.
- ◆ **Send in dues with one check as soon as possible and for the current year.** Payment of past years per capita while necessary, is the main source of roster inaccuracies and mistakes and may create havoc with the statistical records of each chapter if not properly noted. For example, in January 2008, start sending in dues for 2008. Chapters should be sending in dues for the current year between January and June. Also, Chapter Treasurers should send one check to headquarters when submitting dues. Please do not send headquarters the individual checks from members.
- ◆ **Reinstatement fee of \$15 is waived for the month of November in honor of Founder's Day.** These reinstatements must be sent to Headquarters by **November 30**. Initiation fee of \$15.00 for new members is due with **all new membership applications. The initiation fee is NOT waived.** Please be sure to completely fill in all application and reinstatement forms, including the date of initiation or reinstatement.
- ◆ **If members wish to reinstate or be initiated at the end of the year, please note that they will be paid through that year and not the new year.** If members wish to reinstate or be initiated at the end of the year and be paid through the new year, please make sure and submit the necessary payment as our dues will increase effective January 1, 2008 (please see next bullet) . For example, if a member is reinstated or initiated in November 2007, they will be paid through the year 2007. If members wish to send in their dues November 2007 and be paid through 2008, \$42 must be submitted to Headquarters and 2007 will not be counted in their records as a service year.
- ◆ **At the 2007 Supreme Convention in Denver, Colorado, the delegation agreed upon a change in per capita.** Per capita for all members will be \$27 annually as of January 1, 2008. Reinstatement and/or initiation fees will remain at \$15 each. Until January 1, 2008, per capita is \$20 and reinstatement and/or initiation fees are \$15 each.



- ◆ **Membership cards will be sent out shortly after payment is received.** Our membership software system will only print cards associated with the particular payment and for the current year.

Public Relations

- ◆ The Public Relations department is coordinated by National Headquarters in Washington D.C. The department takes good care of monitoring events and issues on Capitol Hill, across the country and overseas that affect the DOP as well as the Greek American community. In addition to this, the department ensures that the DOP name is visible in the Greek American community through media relations, news releases, the website, the *AHEPAN* magazine and Penelope's Scroll.
- ◆ Aside from the obvious ways of communicating with headquarters (mail, phone, fax), we can be reached through the Internet. Through the efforts of this department, the DOP is online. Headquarters has a World Wide Web page and can be reached at www.ahempa.org/dop. Please use lowercase when using the Internet address. We can now disseminate information through this means of communication as well as conduct research.

Supreme Convention Procedures, Questions and Answers

- ◆ **Calculating Voting Strength:** Voting strength is determined by the year-end figure of members paid in full for that year. For example, for the National Convention in 2008, your chapter's voting strength is determined by the amount of members paid through 2007 as of December 31, 2007. There is a scale, which is located in your constitution that dictates how many votes are assigned to a certain number of paid members.
- ◆ **Reporting of Delegates/Alternates:** Based on the voting strength, your chapter will vote for a certain number of delegates and alternates. The number of delegates and alternates will be the same. For example, if your chapters voting strength is three, then you will have three delegates and three alternates to report. The delegate reporting forms are mailed to each chapter in March. **The forms are to be postmarked or faxed no later than June 1 but are subject to an earlier date due to our 2008 National Convention taking place in Athens, Greece.** Each form requires the member's name, serial number and complete address. Please type or print clearly.
- ◆ **Pre-registration:** Pre-registration is allowed from the time you know you are a delegate or alternate until the date posted on the pre-registration form. There is a significant monetary savings to each Delegate/Alternate if they pre-register. This also allows you to go through the registration line at a quicker pace.

Q: If our chapter submits our delegate reporting form after June 1, can we seat delegates/alternates?

A: Headquarters is only responsible for presenting the late forms and letters of explanation to the grievance committee at the convention. It is up to that committee to decide if there exists a viable excuse for the late reporting of the form.

Q: Once we send our delegate reporting form into headquarters, can we make changes to it?

A: If you submitted your first form prior to June 1, and the second form with the changes also comes to headquarters prior to June 1, then it is acceptable. Anything after June 1 will go to the grievance committee at the convention.

Q: Will we be notified if there is a problem with our chapter's voting strength or delegate reporting form?

A: Yes, the Chapter President or Secretary will be notified. The notification will come in the form of a letter from Headquarters.

Q: Aside from the proper reporting of delegates, are there any other criteria I must be aware of to be seated at the convention?

A: Yes. The delegate must be current in his membership status. For example, if a delegate/alternate is attending the 2008 convention, the delegate/alternate must be paid through 2008.

Q: Must I be a delegate or alternate to pre-register?

A: Yes.

Q: Can I make room reservations for the convention by calling Headquarters?

A: No. Reservations must be made directly with the Convention hotel by the deadline posted on all convention information. After this deadline, rooms may not be available at the convention rate or available period.

Q: Can I get a refund on my pre-registration fee if I do not attend the Convention?

A: A refund can only be issued if received at Headquarter **prior** to the convention and before the refund deadline stated on the registration form.

Q: Can I pay my dues at the convention?

A: Yes. If you have been reported as a delegate/alternate and have not paid your current year dues, you must pay them at the convention in order to be seated. So as to avoid delays and confusion however, it is best for delegates and alternates to be current in their membership prior to attending the convention.

Daughters of Penelope

Supreme Headquarters Contact:
Elena V. Skardis
1909 Q. Street, N.W. Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20009

Phone: 202-234-9741

Fax: 202-483-6983

Website: www.ahepa.org/dop

E-mail: dophq@ahepa.org &
elena@ahepa.org

The Daughters of Penelope was the realization of Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfelds' dream. Her desire was to create a woman's organization and because of her perseverance and the encouragement of her husband Dr. Emanuel Apostolides, a devoted Ahepan, she formed EOS Chapter#1 with 25 charter members on November 16, 1929 in San Francisco, California. She was elected the first Grand President in 1931.

The objectives of the Daughters of Penelope are to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family & Individual Excellence. The Daughters of Penelope encourages and promotes loyalty to the country in which they live; cultivates the ideals and traditions of Hellenism; promotes opportunities of education; and promotes the spirit of cooperation and works closely and in harmony with the whole AHEPA Family. The Daughters of Penelope is non-partisan and non-denominational.

Salute to Women March 8, 2008 Washington, D.C.

