

**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
CAPITAL DISTRICT NO. 3**

**DISTRICT CONVENTION MINUTES
MAY 15-17, 2009
HILTON HOTEL, ROCKVILLE, MD**

FRIDAY, May 14, 2009

District Governor Christine Vassilakos called the District #3 Convention to order at 1:10 p.m. and welcomed all delegates. Grand Governor Zone 1 and Liaison to District #3 Anna-Helene Panagakos served as Parliamentarian. District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas gave the opening prayer.

The District Governor appointed the following:

Tellers- Katina Doulis, Helle # 283; Edith Drebot, Agave # 224

Sentinels- Mary Manuel, Arion # 298; Audrey Jalepes, Arion # 298

The Tellers and the Lt. Governor obtained the password from each delegate.

District Secretary Kathy Matthews took the roll call of delegates. Voting strength noted to be 17.

Nominations for the District Convention Officers:

Convention Chair: Irene Michallas, PDG was nominated by Cookie Papuchis, PGP. Seconded by Mary Georghiou, Hermione #11.

Convention Vice Chairperson: Mary Georghiou, Hermione, # 11 was nominated by District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas. Seconded by Katina Doulis, Helle #283. Convention

Secretary: Katherine L. Matrakas, Hermione, # 11 was nominated by Cookie Papuchis, PGP. Seconded by District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas.

The above officers were unanimously elected District #3 Convention Officers. Grand Governor Anna-Helene Panagakos administered the oath of office.

Convention Chair Irene Michallas, PDG reviewed procedures.

Memorial Service – A Memorial Service was performed for eleven departed Sisters in the District. In addition, the name of Betty Vatinas was added as her name was not submitted prior to the Convention.

District Governor Christine Vassilakos moved to dispense with the reading of the previous convention minutes. Seconded by Helen George, Charis Eleni #337. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Edith Drebot, Agave #224 moved to dispense with the District Lodge Officers reports other than the District Governor's Report. Seconded by Helen George, Charis Eleni #337. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Reports of the District Governor:

District Governor Christine Vassilakos noted that her District Governor Report is in the convention materials but she preferred not to read the report but instead to bring some of her concerns to the delegation.

- She was able to make contact with all chapters except one.
- All chapters did not submit their Chapter Assessment to the District Treasurer.
- With so few delegates, some convention committees were combined and so some of the committee work was done ahead of time by the District Lodge to prepare for this convention.

- Some lodge members and committee chairmen had donated the cost of printing but this could not continue and obligations would need to be met. The Lodge was further investigating fundraising.
- The issue of the District treasury was discussed in that the AHEPA chapter hosting the convention for the next year is to give the AHEPA District Lodge a good faith deposit of \$1,000. The DOP District Lodge is to receive \$500; however, this is the 3rd year where this has not been done. This deficit impacts future administrations. There has been some discussion that due to a decrease in delegates attending District Conventions that we might consider changing it to one day from three. Another possibility is to have a separate DOP Convention as a result of a survey sent to the Chapters (101 responses). This should be brought forth in a joint session with AHEPA to see about some workable solutions.
- The District Convention in 2010 is in Fayetteville, NC and they have no DOP chapter; it will be difficult to have a member of the Daughters travel that distance for convention meetings.
- District Governor Vassilakos said she and District Secretary Kathy Matthews had donated postage and printing costs to get the District Convention packages together for all the delegates. Chapters were requesting that mailing be re-sent either because of being lost or misplaced creating a financial burden on the District. Information is sent via mail to the Chapter President to disseminate to their Chapters. Using the internet is a possibility, whereby information could be emailed (for those that have it) to the Chapter President to disseminate to the members of the Chapter.

District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas commended District Governor Christine Vassilakos for her forward thinking in creating and recommending use of a Chapter Financial Report Form for budgetary needs and tracking. District Treasurer Angel Hajacos also thanked District Governor Vassilakos for representing the District so well especially since she had a baby during her term.

District Committee Reports:

- Liaison to the District Convention Report - Chairman Penny Manuel, PDG reported on her work with the AHEPA Chapter #383 for the planning of this District Convention. Although there was no DOP chapter affiliated with the host AHEPA chapter, her chapter Arion #298 assisted with the registration and the Basile entertainment. They provided assistance and would not receive any proceeds from the Convention.
- Growth & Expansion Report - District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas reported on efforts to increase membership and noted the theme of Grand Vice President Elaine Sampanis was “Our Vision Will Bring a Brighter Future.” Sister Jackie held a contest to encourage chapters; two awards were given for those chapters bringing in the most new members in the category of 50 or fewer members and 51 or more members. The winners for most new members initiated were Ktimene #70, Greensboro, NC (smaller chapter) and Helle #283, Falls Church, VA (larger chapter.)

The Convention Chair asked if there were any reports to go to Committee: District Governor Christine Vassilakos asked the Convention Chair if the Legislative Committee would like to review the newly designed Combination Chapter and Financial Report Form which is included in the Convention packets. Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf indicated that District forms were the decision of the District Lodge and did not need to be reviewed by the Convention Body and therefore would not require a legislative change. Therefore the form was not forwarded to the Legislative Committee. District Governor Christine Vassilakos mentioned that plans are to introduce the new form the next year and she would still appreciate it if the Delegation would take a few moments to look the form over.

- District Project- Cooley's Anemia –Chairman Cookie Papuchis, PGP gave her report. She thanked all the chapters for their support in raising \$2,710.00. It was noted that AHEPA President Ike Gulas' son has Cooley's Anemia. Many improvements in research and education have been accomplished on this the 30th anniversary of the Cooley's Anemia Project. It was discussed that with multiple obligations and many projects to donate to that we eliminate the District Project at this time. Sister Cookie asked the delegation to consider this.

Eugenia Kalis, Alcmena #27 moved to accept all the Convention Committee reports. Seconded by PDG Penny Manuel. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Convention Committees - The following were appointed as chairmen:

- Chapter of the Year- Penny Manuel, PDG
- Penelope of the Year- Irene Michallas, PDG
- Resolutions/Legislation- District Secretary Kathy Matthews
- Grievance- Katina Doulis, Helle #283
- Budget & Finance – District Treasurer Angel Hajacos indicated that the budget and audit had been done prior to the convention.
- Scholarship Funding and District Project – Cookie Papuchis, PGP
- District Convention- District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas

Convention Chairman Irene Michallas, PDG moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Seconded by District Secretary Kathy Matthews. **MOTION CARRIED.** The Convention will reconvene tomorrow, Saturday, May 16, 2009.

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2009

Convention Chair Irene Michallas, PDG convened the meeting at 9:35 am. Cookie Papuchis, PGP escorted DOP Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf into the meeting room. District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas read the opening prayer.

District Secretary Kathy Matthews read the roll call of delegates. Voting strength was noted at 17.

District Convention Committee Reports:

DOP Chapter of the Year- Chairman Penny Manuel, PDG said it was recommended that there be workshop or communicate to the Sisters about what is considered charity work and work within the community versus what is done for the Church, donation and fundraising and civic projects. The District Lodge assisted the committee with the work. Sister Penny moved to accept the report. The report was accepted.

Penelope of the Year- Chairman Irene Michallas, PDG said the announcement will be made at the Awards Luncheon. She moved to accept the report. The report was accepted.

Legislation & Resolution- Chairman District Secretary Kathy Matthews received assistance from Grand Liaison Anna-Helene Panagakos and District Governor Christine Vassilakos and reported that they recommend we combine the offices of Marshal and Maids of Athena Advisor since only 1 Maids chapter is in the District (Muses #22). Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf said no dispensation is needed but according the Constitution, there must be a Maids of Athena Advisor even if there is not a Maids chapter in the District. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The committee recommended in order to reduce mailing costs, that each chapter appoint one member with computer capabilities to receive and distribute all District mailings to the Chapter. Mailings should also go to Grand President, Grand Liaison and the District Lodge either by email or regular mail. Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf recommended sending regular mail to the Chapter President and email to the Chapter Secretary or an officer. After discussion, Chairman Kathy Matthews amended her original motion to include one hard copy mailed regular mail to Chapter President and an email copy to chapter officer with computer capability to receive email. Cookie Papuchis, PGP seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Convention— Chairman District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas and committee members Audrey Jalepes, Arion #298 and Eugenia Kalis, Alcmena #27 recommended that the Daughters in District #3 try to have a District Convention on their own for a year. Extensive discussion held regarding pros and cons. Cookie Papuchis, PGP also noted that at this Convention no funds were allotted as is customary to provide a room or complimentary tickets to the Grand President or to our Liaison so they both paid to register for the Convention. She encouraged the delegates to voice their concerns to the Ahepans.

Mary Georghiou, Hermione #11 indicated that the past 2 years the DOP have not been given their \$500 allotment in planning for the District Convention from the AHEPA District Governor. It was indicated that this was not done because it was not clearly stated in the AHEPA Bylaws that this was the procedure.

Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf recommended that a joint meeting with the Ahepans be held to discuss joint events, newsletters, future work together, scholarships and planning of District Conventions and the allotments for the DOP in the host city planning for these District Conventions.

Cookie Papuchis, PGP moved to table the committee's recommendation to hold a separate convention pending discussion with AHEPA representatives. The DOP delegates asked District Governor Christine Vassilakos and Cookie Papuchis, PGP to represent the delegation. Penny Manual, PDG seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Grievance Committee— Chairman Katina Doulis, Helle #283 received 4 grievances. (1) Submitted by Charis Eleni #337—The DOP District #3 Lodge has not received its fair share \$500 portion of the \$1,000 (the AHEPA District Lodge receives from the AHEPA chapter hosting the District Convention) for 2008 and 2009. Recommendation: Payment should be received by the end of the 2009 District Convention and the Convention Guidelines should be amended to include this payment. (2) Submitted by Charis Eleni #337—The AHEPA chapter hosting the 2009 District Convention is not paying for a room for two nights for the DOP District Governor. It is an honor to host the Convention and to receive the district officers and proceeds from the Convention should be used to pay for the rooms. Recommendation: Any chapter hosting the District Convention must provide complimentary rooms for two nights for the highest ranking District and National officers. The District Convention Guidelines should have this stated. (3) Submitted by Charis Eleni #337—The 2008 District Convention was moved from June to May to allow for the earlier National Convention in Athens, Greece. This creates conflicts since schools are still in session and there are college graduations held in May. Recommendation: The District Convention should be moved to June to allow for a greater attendance and make it more of a family event.. (4) Submitted by Harmonia #366—Dates on the District Financial Reports are confusing especially when reporting contributions. When does a calendar year begin? Recommendation: Put beginning and ending dates on all forms sent out.

Chairman Irene Michallas noted that the first two grievances will be addressed when the DOP delegation meets with the AHEPA delegation. District Governor Christine Vassilakos noted that grievance #3 regarding the month of the District Convention is in compliance with the DOP Bylaws (Article XX, Section II) but it perhaps we can recommend that the Convention be in June. Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf noted that the Article states that the date is decided by the Ahepans and Daughters and the Daughters did not have a say in this date. Chairman Michallas recommended that grievance #4 be handled by having the District Lodge make the necessary changes to forms going out next year and clearly explain the dates on the forms. The report was accepted.

Scholarship Funding and District Project—Mary Georghiou, Hermione #11 read the report. (Chairman Cookie Papuchis, PGP and DG Christine Vassilakos were sent by the DOP delegation to meet with AHEPA representatives Dist. Lt. Governor Steve Mavronis and Harry Tom Cavalaris, PSG, to discuss whether or not the Daughters would have a separate District Convention and how to collect money owed to the DOP District Lodge from the good faith deposit.)

Another roll call of delegates was taken and the voting strength was 15.

The following recommendations were made by the Scholarship Funding/District Project Committee:

For Scholarship Fund:

1. Eliminate the \$500 cash raffle fund-raiser.
2. Add mandatory donation from each chapter based on a minimum of 50% of each chapter's assessment.
3. Hold off on donating a DOP District #3 Scholarship for the 2009-2010 year, in anticipation to collect assessments to increase scholarship fund.
4. Introduce a new opportunity for Sisters throughout the domain to make a personal donation "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" a family member, a friend, a colleague, etc. to the scholarship fund. The contributor will be asked to attend the District Convention to present the scholarship award to the recipient. Minimum donation is \$500 (can be combination of several personal donations.)

For District Project:

1. Hold off on donating a DOP District #3 Project for the 2009-2010 year to allow chapters to concentrate on increasing the Scholarship Fund. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Growth and Expansion—District Lt. Gov. Jackie Anas announced the winners of the District contest to award chapters bringing in the most new members for 2008-2009. Winner in the category of 51 members or more is Helle Chapter #283. Winner in category of 50 members or less is Ktimene Chapter #70. Presentation of silver trays will take place at the Banquet.

Motion to adjourn was made by Edith Drebot, Agave #224 at 11:30 a.m. and to resume after the luncheon at 1:30 p.m. Seconded by Helen George, Charis Eleni #337. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A Joint Session of the DOP and AHEPA delegates was held and District Governor Christine Vassilakos was asked to address the delegation to voice concerns of the Daughters. She discussed the following:

1. Convention issues- Low attendance of DOP delegates this year (17). Discussion ensued about the concerns of the DOP District Lodge regarding courtesies not being extended to the two Grand Lodge officers at this Convention.

2. There have been many conventions in the North with no DOP chapters to help host and this puts great stress on the District Lodge. It was disclosed that next year's District Convention will be in Fayetteville, N.C. and there is no local DOP chapter there so the District DOP Lodge will be assisting in the planning. There is some concern on the number of delegates that will be able to attend.
3. District Governor Christine Vassilakos and Cookie Papuchis, PGP met with AHEPA District Lt. Governor Steve Mavronis and Harry Cavalaras, PSG to discuss the DOP and AHEPA concerns and relations and noted that the DOP would be willing to go ahead alone without the AHEPA for next year's District Convention; however they were concerned for the survival of the Order and the need to work together. The District Governor sent a survey to chapters regarding Convention attendance and they shared these results with Brother Steve. There were 101 responses, a 92% return rate. It was noted that most DOP delegates to the District Convention do not have husbands who are serving as AHEPA delegates.
4. Dean Economou, AHEPA # 438 asked the Daughters to list their top 3 concerns and further discussions could ensue and move forward. There was some discussion that a DOP chapter could be established in Fayetteville. It was suggested that at the beginning of the District Conventions, a joint session be held to have discussions in order to work out any issues. The DOP delegates were asked to take back these suggestions and discuss them. Also, the conventions should try to have family activities or events for all to participate in.
5. District Governor Pete Chambers noted the concern that North Carolina was a distance and it may be hard to host a convention.
6. There should be courtesies extended to the Grand Lodge of the DOP. District Governor Vassilakos said the Host chapter should split the \$1,000 good faith deposit between the District Lodges. The DOP District budget is \$4,000 so \$500 is a sizeable amount of money. It was suggested there could be a monthly column in the Triogram to discuss concerns.
7. Gus James, Past Supreme President AHEPA, made reference to our relationship with the DOP as not an auxiliary but an affiliate. The Sons/Maids are an auxiliary. It was discussed that the DOP are owed an apology.
8. It was mentioned that there could be a District Governor column in the Triogram and also a joint session with the AHEPA and the DOP held with the District Conventions.

At the conclusion of the joint session with the AHEPA delegates, the DOP delegates returned to their afternoon business session. Chairman Irene Michallas, PDG began the afternoon session at 2:45 p.m. District Secretary Kathy Matthews indicated a voting strength of 17.

After discussion the following items were agreed upon to be the most important items to be conveyed to the Ahepans regarding the District Convention:

1. Include DOP District Lodge in all phases with AHEPA for District Convention planning (i.e., site location, etc.). This needs to be open and transparent.
2. District DOP Lodge to receive 50% of good faith deposit for District convention city fee. Both District Lodges will approve any deviation.
3. All protocol/courtesies should be discussed and approved with both AHEPA and DOP District Lodges with the host Convention city.
4. Recommend after opening of the District Convention that a joint AHEPA/DOP session be instituted for all future District Conventions.

District Governor Christine Vassilakos moved to take these 4 priority items to the Ahepans for their consideration. Audrey Jalepes, Arion #298 seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion ensued regarding holding a separate DOP Convention and what happens if there are not enough delegates for a quorum. Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf indicated that last year when the Maids of Athena were unable to attend the Supreme Convention in Greece that the MOA Grand Lodge ratified their recommendations at that Convention.

John Bantsolas, AHEPA District Treasurer and member of Fayetteville chapter spoke to the DOP delegates. He is the co-chairman for the District Convention in 2010 in Fayetteville. He indicated that they have started planning for the Convention for May 13-16, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Bourdeau. The hotel will run about \$82-85/night. He gave an overview of the area and possible places to sightsee. He said there may be some interest in starting a DOP Chapter and they can go through the District Governor to pursue further. There are the wives of Ahepans who will be able to help with registration. Fayetteville is also accessible via Amtrak. Treasurer Bantsolas indicated they have already paid the \$1,000 good faith deposit.

District Treasurer Angel Hajacos moved to hold the District Convention in Fayetteville jointly with Ahepans and DOP. Cookie Papuchis, PGP seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

District Treasurer's Budget Report- District Governor Christine Vassilakos reported a deficit of \$297.23. Mary Georghiou, Hermione #11 noted that according to IRS Code #733, 15% may be removed from any monies derived from charity fundraisers to be used for administrative costs. She moved to remove 15% of any income received from fundraisers to remain in District treasury for administrative costs. Cookie Papuchis, PGP seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mary Georghiou moved to approve budget with the 15% overhead expense added. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mary Georghiou, Hermione #11 asked that all officers submit their voucher expenditure receipts.

District Secretary Kathy Matthews noted a voting strength of 17.

Nomination and Election of the District Lodge Officers:

District Governor – District Governor Christine Vassilakos was nominated by Cookie Papuchis, PGP. Motion seconded by Penny Manual, PDG. Vote taken. Christine Vassilakos was re-elected District Governor.

District Lt. Governor – District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas was nominated by Mary Georghiou, Hermione #11. Motion seconded by Penny Manual, PDG. Vote taken. Jackie Anas was re-elected District Lt. Governor.

District Secretary - District Secretary Kathy Matthews was nominated by District Lt. Governor Jackie Anas. Motion seconded by Helen George, Charis Eleni #337. Vote taken. Kathy Matthews was re-elected District Secretary.

District Treasurer – Helen George, Charis Eleni #337 was nominated by District Lt. Governor, Jackie Anas. Motion seconded by Cookie Papuchis, PGP. Helen George was elected District Treasurer.

District Marshal/Advisor MOA – District Treasurer Angel Hajacos was nominated by District Governor Christine Vassilakos. Motion seconded by Katina Doulis, Helle # 284. Angel Hajacos was elected District Marshal/Advisor MOA.

District Governor Christine Vassilakos was installed by Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf. The District Lt. Governor, District Secretary, and District Marshal/Advisor MOA were installed by Grand Governor Anna-Helene Panagakos.

Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf thanked all the delegates and Sisters for their support over the past year. She encouraged all to fully communicate in order to better understand the issues and work together with each other and AHEPA. She also encouraged getting new members. Grand President Barbara thanked District Governor Christine Vassilakos for her hard work and presented her with a gift.

Grand Governor Zone 1 Liaison Anna Helene Panagakos said it was a pleasure to work with District Governor Christine and the District Lodge. She noted that they made the DOP Supreme Convention in San Francisco, CA June 30 through July 5. As a token of thanks for her term as District Governor, she presented District Governor Christine with the 80th Anniversary DOP pin. Grand Governor Anna Helene encouraged all to communicate with each other and to try to resolve issues. She encouraged all to stay informed with the Grand Lodge online and via the website.

Good of the Order Announcements:

1. District Governor Christine thanked Grand Lodge DOP officers Barbara and Anna Helene for attending the District 3 Convention. Thanks to all the Convention officers- Irene, Mary and Kathy and all the delegates (17). District Governor Christine presented gifts to her Lodge.
2. District Lt. Governor Jackie presented a gift to District Governor Christine on behalf of the District Lodge.
3. Anna Helene thanked everyone for their cards and kindness in thinking of her over the last month on the passing of her father.
4. Cookie Papuchis, PGP thanked Irene Michallas, PDG for being the District Convention Chair, Mary Georghiou, Hermione #11 for serving as Vice Chairman and Kathy Matrakas, Hermione #11 for serving as District Secretary. Also thanks to Grand President Barbara and Grand Governor. Liaison Anna Helene. It was also noted that Anna Helene will be running for Grand Lodge Treasurer at the Supreme Convention in San Francisco and asked that we support our Liaison for this office. She also thanked the District Lodge as well- Christine, Jackie, Kathy and Angel.
5. Baby gifts were presented to District Governor Christine for her daughter Sophia.

District Marshal/Advisor DOP Angel Hajacos read the closing prayer. Sister Angel moved to adjourn the District 3 Convention, seconded by District Governor Christine Vassilakos. The District 3 Convention adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Katherine Lambros Matrakas
District 3 Convention Secretary
May 16, 2009