

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE  
MINUTES OF THE  
79th EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT 20 CONVENTION  
June 19, 2021  
Virtual

**JOINT SESSION-ALL ORDERS-OPENING SESSION**

The Joint Session of El Camino Real District 20 was called to order on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at 9:15 a.m. Opening prayer was read. Introduction of Officers from all Orders were observed, along with Supreme and Grand Lodge officers in attendance. The Scholarship Foundation annual report was read by Brent Noyes, Chairman, Board of Directors. See attached report.

**Morning Business Session** - Saturday, JUNE 19, 2021

Grand President Celia Kachmarski gave welcoming remarks.

**Introduction of District Lodge Officers** - District Lodge Officers were introduced by District Governor (DG) Adrienne Bell.

Mary Bowen, District Lt. Governor  
Niki Pallas, District Secretary  
Martha Dratsiotis, District Treasurer  
Irene Marie Grevas, District Marshal  
Cathy Keyser, District Advisor  
Sofie Batshoun, Maids of Athena

**Introduction of Grand Lodge Officers** – District Governor Adrienne Bell introduced Grand President Celia Kachmarski and Grand Governor Zone IV/District Liaison Beverly Kennedy.

Official opening of the Daughters of Penelope 2021 District Convention Business Session was conducted by District Governor Adrienne Bell at 10:12 a.m.

Opening Prayer was given by District Marshal Irene Marie Grevas, Philia #380

A Memorial Service was conducted by District Marshal Irene Marie Grevas, Philia #380. A prayer was read which included the names of our departed Sisters.

Demetra Gallanes Amphitrite #151  
Elaine Hatupis Aegina #340  
Stella Pollalis Delos #103  
Pam Edwards Minos #159  
Lillian Papadakis Minos #159  
Anna Kroger Helenos #432

**Introduction of Past District Governors** - District Governor Adrienne Bell introduced all Past District Governors (PDG) in attendance.

Georgia Souris, Aegina #340; Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340; Niki Pallas, Helenos #432

**Announcement of Parliamentarian**: Angie Lambrou, Helenos #432

**Appointment of Sentinels and Tellers**

Sentinel: Julie Karoutas, Helenos #432

Teller: Mary Bowen, Aegina #340

**Roll Call of Delegates** by District Secretary, Niki Pallas, Helenos #432. See Attached Report

Credentials Report: Voting Strength: 18

**Election of Convention Officers:**

Convention Chairman: Niki Pallas, Helenos #432

Convention Vice-Chairman: Yvonne Brinton, Amphitrite #151

Convention Secretary: Michele Lotakis- Aegina #340

**Oath of Office:** Grand President Celia Kachmarski administered the Oath of Office to Convention Officers.

**Appointment of DOP/AHEPA Liaison:** Carol Stathopoulos, PDG; Aegina #340

**Adoption of Convention Agenda** accepted as distributed.

**Adoption of Convention Minutes** accepted as distributed.

**Announcement of Committee Chairs:**

Budget: Martha Dratsiotis, Treasurer, Amphitrite #151

Convention/ Conference Cities: Future District Lodge, Mid-Winter Conference – TBD; WRDC 2022 - Seattle

District Project: Cathy Keyser, District Advisor, Helenos #432

Election/Nominations: Linda Kounelis, Philia #380

Penelope of the Year: Tasia Manassakis, Philia #380

Grievance: PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340

Legislation: Mary Pruitt, Anthos #395

Maids of Athena: Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159

Growth and Expansion: Open Forum

Ways & Means: Open Forum

Public Relations/Communications/Website Open Forum

Most Committees met earlier in the week. The Grievance Committee will meet today at 12:15

**District Governor's Report:** District Governor Adrienne Bell yields to Grand President Celia Kachmarski.

**Grand President's Report:** Grand President Celia Kachmarski said she is blessed to attend our convention. She thanked District Governor Adrienne Bell and Grand Governor Zone IV/Liaison Beverly Kennedy for their dedication, commitment, and support to move DOP forward during the pandemic. Her "Together we are stronger, Together we Strive" theme from last year made us closer and united. She is proud of the accomplishments initiated. We are stronger and we are better. We introduced the Webinar series; all available on our National website. Our future is bright. She will be attending the Supreme Convention and looking forward to celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the War of Independence. She "Virtually" presented a Certificate to Grand Governor Adrienne Bell for her commitment and thanked her for all she did during her tenure.

**Grand Governor/Liaison Report:** Beverly Kennedy Grand Governor Zone IV/Liaison - Last year has been difficult in getting things done. We are all looking forward to being able to get together in person. Going forward we will probably use a combination of Zoom and live meetings. This has been a big growth asset for us. Despite the Pandemic we have continued to grow. She said from a business standpoint she encourages us to do the following: Utilize the Headquarters Website and the Membership system. On the Members tab we can view the Webinars and many other presentations. Publicize our chapters using social media and other sources. Send District Governor bulletins monthly. Send Chapter President letters or newsletters monthly. Update websites. Keep posting pending Chapter events wherever possible. Communicate, Communicate, Communicate. Step up and serve as an Officer – Chapter, District or Grand levels. Get to know members in other chapters and share information. She has enjoyed her two years as our Grand Governor/Liaison. Daughters of Penelope has been an important part of her life. She concluded by thanking us.

**District Governor's Report:** DG Adrienne Bell gave a comprehensive report. She reprised her two years as District Governor highlighting significant moments of her travels. Also, she thanked those who assisted her throughout her term. The full report is provided as an attachment to these minutes.

**Committee Reports:**

*Maids of Athena Report:* Committee Chairman Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 reported that District 20 Secretary Niki Pallas, Helenos #432 and District 20 Marshal Irene Marie Grevas, Philia #380 attended the Committee meeting. The Committee has two recommendations. 1.) The District Lodge should pursue filling the Maids of Athena (MOA) District Lodge Advisor Liaison vacancy. 2.) Each chapter should elect an MOA Advisor. Chairman Sofie Batshoun moved to accept the report. PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 seconded. Motion carried.

*Legislation Report:* Committee Chairman Mary Pruitt, Anthos #395 presented her report. See attached report in its entirety.

The Committee recommends that Article V, Section 11, Per Capita Waiver should remove the wording “before January 1, 1999”.

In addition, Article XVII, Section 5, Dual Offices be removed from the By-Laws.

Chairman Mary Pruitt moved that we adopt the recommendations of the Legislation Committee. Yvonne Brinton, Amphitrite #151 seconded. Motion carried.

*Penelope of the Year:* Chairman Tasia Manassakis, Philia #380 reported that the nine members of the Committee met and reviewed the applications. This year’s Penelope of the Year is Niki Pallas, Helenos #432. Congratulations to Niki.

*District Project Report:* Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159 presented the District Project Report on behalf of District Advisor, Cathy Keyser - District Project Chairman. See attached report. Cathy Keyser moved to accept the report as given. District Lt. Governor Mary Bowen seconded. Discussion followed. District Marshal Irene Marie Grevas gave us an explanation of how the program works. The website is <https://waterwithblessings.org/> Motion carried.

A Recess was called at 12:04 p.m.

*Afternoon Business Session – Saturday, June 19, 2021*

Convention Chairman Niki Pallas called the session to order at 12:40 pm.

*Credentials Report: Voting Strength: 18*

*Convention/Conference Cities:* PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 informed us that the Mid-Winter Conference is tentatively in Palm Desert on January 22, 2022.

The WRDC will most likely be Seattle.

*Grievance Report:* PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 gave her Grievance Report – see attached report. “It was recommended by Sister Niki Pallas that a grievance be directed toward the AHEPA District Lodge concerning unprofessional conduct at the beginning of the Joint Zoom meeting which she chaired with Brother Pete Maroudas. It was further recommended that our liaison to the AHEPA District Lodge, Sister Carol Stathopoulos, should be directed to draft such a grievance and submit it to the AHEPA District Lodge.” Chairman Georgia Souris moved to accept the report as given. Seconded by Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340. Motion carried. Yvonne Brinton, Amphitrite #151 moved that we request to receive a written apology to the unprofessional behavior as it was inappropriate. Seconded by Kathy Corcovelos-Sky, Aegina #340. Discussion followed. Sister Yvonne amended her motion as follows: to insert after “written apology”, “in a generalized statement that there were inappropriate comments, and it would be helpful to refrain from inappropriate comments in the future”. Amendment was seconded by Michele Lotakis, Aegina #340. Amendment accepted.

Motion with amendment – We request to receive a written apology in a generalized statement that there were inappropriate comments, and it would be helpful to refrain from inappropriate comments in the future. The amended motion carried. Carol Stathopoulos, DOP/AHEPA Liaison will submit the grievance.

**Budget:** District Treasurer Martha Dratsiotis and her Committee met on June 17, 2021. Those in attendance were – District Governor Adrienne Bell; District Marshal Irene Marie Grevas; Peleleilani Snyder, Philia #380; District Secretary Niki Pallas; District Advisor Cathy Keyser; PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 and Lt. Governor Mary Bowen. Martha presented the 2021-2022 Budget. Copy attached. Discussion followed. Yvonne Brinton, Amphitrite #151 moved to accept the budget with corrections. Mary Pruitt, Anthos #395 seconded. Motion carried. The 2021-2022 Budget has passed with the addition of the subtotal on the proposed Budget.

**Ways and Means:** Open Forum – PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340 suggested that we look on Facebook for other chapters’ ideas.

**Growth and Expansion:** Open Forum

**Public Relations/Communications/Website:** Wynn Storton is keeping our website up to date.

**New Business:**

**DOP Sisterhood Conference** – DG Adrienne Bell said that District 22 hosted a Zoom conference on May 19, 2021. It was well attended. Grand Lodge members were present along with many other Sisters. She said it was nice to get together with other DGs to see what they are doing. In two years, District 21 will host. Grand Governor Beverly Kennedy said after the Sisterhood ended it was discussed that an option of having an in person Sisterhood Conference in the non WRDC years. And have a Zoom Sisterhood In the WRDC years.

**Mid-Winter Conference:** DG Adrienne received word from AHEPA District 20 brother Wynn Storton that the Mid-Winter Conference will be January 15, 2022 in Palm Desert, CA. A Taverna Night is planned for Friday evening. Mary Pruitt, Anthos #395 moved that we accept the date of January 15, 2022 in Palm Desert for the Mid-Winter Conference. Seconded by DG Adrienne Bell. Motion carried. DOP/AHEPA Liaison Carol Stathopoulos will deliver the information to AHEPA District 20.

**Elections / Nominations Report:** Linda Kounelis, Philia #380 gave her report. The Committee met on June 16, 2021 via Zoom. Committee members - Sofie Batshoun, Minos #159; PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340; PDG Carol Stathopoulos, Aegina #340; District Advisor Cathy Keyser, Helenos #432; District Marshal Irene Marie Grevas, Philia #380; DG Adrienne Bell, Philia #380; Tasia Manassakis, Philia #380. See nominees listed below.

**Nominations for District Lodge Officers**

District Governor <u>Carol Stathopoulos</u>	Nominated by <u>Mary Pruitt</u>
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District Lt. Governor <u>Martha Dratsiotis</u>	Nominated by <u>Committee</u>
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District Secretary <u>Michele Lotakis</u>	Nominated by <u>Mary Pruitt</u>
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District Treasurer <u>Irene Marie Grevas</u>	Nominated by <u>Committee</u>
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District Marshal  
Julie Karoutas

Nominated by  
Committee

District Advisor, Maids of Athena  
Open

The slate is elected by acclamation.

Grand Governor Beverly Kennedy administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected 2021-2022 District 20 Lodge Officers.

**Good of the Order and Special Announcements**

Sister Angie Lambrou, Helenos #432 thanked the 2020-2021 District Lodge and District Governor Adrienne Bell for everything they did throughout the year. She congratulated the new board. She also thanked Grand Governor Beverly Kennedy for being at our Convention and for all she has done throughout her tenure.

Michele Lotakis, District Secretary, Aegina #340 announced the graduation of her daughter Dimitra from her General Surgery Residency. Dimitra will be going on to a Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Presentations**

District Governor Adrienne Bell thanked Grand President Celia Kachmarski and Grand Governor Zone IV/District Liaison for their unwavering support and advice. A gift in their names to the Scholarship Fund is forthcoming. She thanked the Chapter Presidents and members for their support during the past two years. And last but not least she thanked her District Officers for all they have done.

Closing Prayer by District Marshal Irene Marie Grevas.

PDG Georgia Souris, Aegina #340 moved to adjourn the meeting. Yvonne Brinton, Amphitrite #151 seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment at 2:44 p.m.