FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boulegeris Elected Grand President of Daughters of Penelope

The delegates of the Supreme Convention of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP) elected Georgette Boulegeris, Grand President for the 2022-2023 administrative year. Elections were held July 21st, at the 100th Annual AHEPA Supreme Convention, Orlando, Florida.

Meet Grand President Georgette Boulegeris

Grand President Georgette Boulegeris has been involved in the Daughters of Penelope over 40 years, serving the organization at the local, district and national levels.

Boulegeris has embraced the theme, “The Power of We” to lead the Daughters of Penelope Sisterhood. Seeing the potential in women and the power of collaboration, Boulegeris is promoting “The Power of We” to engage women and strengthen the organization. She identified three fundamental areas that will be targeted this year: membership growth, financial growth, and the expansion of program initiatives. She is confident that this will be an outstanding and productive year for the Daughters of Penelope Sisterhood.

Nationally, she chaired many committees. These committees include Scholarship, St. Basil’s, and Penelope House for Battered Women, Mobile, Ala. She served as chairman for two Supreme Convention business sessions and served as the President of the Daughters of Penelope Educational Foundation 2004-2006.

Boulegeris is a member of Tethys Chapter 229 New Brunswick, N.J. This chapter is a part of the Fifth District, comprised of New Jersey and Delaware. At the District level, Boulegeris' contributions to the Sisterhood include instituting a biennial Salute to Women reception recognizing and honoring women who have achieved at the highest level in their professional careers. This biennial event mirrors the national celebration of women held at the Supreme Conventions. She also was the first Daughter of Penelope member to serve as chairman of the Fifth District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation. The foundation has awarded over one million dollars in grant funding to cancer research. She was recognized by the Sisters of her District for her contributions by being named District Penelope of the Year twice (1999 and 2011).

Locally, she has, and continues to, serve Chapter 229 in all of their initiatives. She is a communicant of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Piscataway, N.J. Her efforts on behalf of the church community currently include being a member of the St. Barbara Ladies Philoptocho Society, serving on the St. George Greek School Committee, and serving on the Rutgers Football Parking committee.
Professionally, Boulegeris is a retired educator serving the Somerville, New Jersey, school community for 37 years as a teacher and school principal. Recognition of her professional contributions include being named Teacher of the Year in 1996 and being recognized as a New Jersey Best Practice in 2006 for a middle school transition program initiative that she developed and implemented. As principal, her middle school was named as a National Title 1 Distinguished School in 2010. She retired in 2019.

She currently serves on the New Jersey Hellenic American Commission after being appointed to the commission by Governor Phil Murphy in 2019. She has chaired the March 25 Essay Contest for the Commission for the past two years.

She is the daughter of George (deceased) and Mary Karnounpakis Boulegeris, and the sister of the late Michael G. Boulegeris, of Atlanta, Ga. She calls herself a “Jersey Girl with Buckeye Roots” since her grandparents, when immigrating to the United States, established the family roots in Monessen, Pa., and Weirton, W.V. She lives her life and strives to serve her community while keeping the four cornerstones of her family’s foundation prominent in her mind—Faith, Service, Family, Education.

**Highlights of the Daughters of Penelope Supreme Convention**

2022 Athletic Awards Luncheon

One of our many highlights at the AHEPA Family Supreme Convention is the Athletic Awards Luncheon.

The Daughters of Penelope is proud to announce Georgia Chrysi Polydoros of Houston, TX, as the 2022 Zoe Cavalaris Outstanding Female Athletic Award recipient and Team USA Paralympian Eliana Marie Mason of Beaverton, OR as the 2022 Hall of Fame Athlete.

*Photo L to R: Daughters of Penelope Athletics Chair Katina Tassopoulos, 2021-2022 Grand President Kathy Bizoukas, 2022 Zoe Cavalaris Honoree Georgia Polydoros, and Brother Harry Cavalaris. Photo Credit: Daughters of Penelope Executive Director Elena Saviolakis*
2022 Salute to Women

The Salute to Women was founded by Past Grand President Honorable Betty Athanasakos and Past Grand President Joanna Panagopoulos Merakos. The idea was conceived in 1965 to promote the Daughters of Penelope as a major National and International Woman's Philanthropic Organization.

Since the Daughters of Penelope had proven to be a dynamic force in their local communities and was making a stir throughout the U.S., Canada, and Greece. Past Grand President Athanasakos recommended the Daughters of Penelope recognize an outstanding woman outside of the organization. Four years later, Grand President Merakos adopted the idea to honor a woman who represented and possessed the goals and ideals of the Daughters of Penelope and the "SALUTE" became a reality.

The Daughters of Penelope is proud to announce Dr. Janet E. Petro, Director of NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center, as the 2022 Salute to Women Honoree.

Photo L to R: Salute to Women Committee Member/Past Grand President Demi Thomas, Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, 2021-2022 Grand President Kathy Bizoukas, Elizabeth Petro, Salute to Women Honoree Dr. Janet E. Petro, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Salute to Women Chairman/Past Grand President Joanne Booras, Her Excellency Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of Greece to the USA, and Salute to Women Committee Member/Past Grand President Celia Kachmarski. Photo Credit: Amar Dewal of BNB Photography NY
Photo L to R: Past Grand President Celia Kachmarski, Past Grand President Joanne Booras, Elizabeth Petro, 2022 Salute to Women Honoree Dr. Janet E. Petro, Space Donald, Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, Past Grand President Demi Thomas, and Newly Elected Grand President Georgette Boulegeris. Photo Credit: Amar Dewal of BNB Photography NY

2022-2023 Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge

In addition to Grand President Boulegeris, the following individuals were elected to the Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge:

- Grand Vice President Marianthi Treppiedi of Spokane, WA;
- Grand Secretary Margaret Dritsas of Ottawa, Canada;
- Grand Treasurer Antoinette M. Zachariades of Brick, NJ;
- Grand Governor Zone I Marianne Boutsoulis of Cheshire, CT;
- Grand Governor Zone II Patty Didik of Hudson, FL;
- Grand Governor Zone III Tina Bullock of Albuquerque, NM;
- Grand Governor Zone IV Robbie Jackson of Spokane, WA;
- Grand Governor Zone V Nicki Douklias of Manitoba, Canada;
and Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena Effie Kirkiles of Oakland Park, FL.
L to R: Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena Effie Kirkiles, Grand Governor Zone IV Robbie Jackson, Grand Governor Zone II Patty Didik, Grand Treasurer Antoinette M. Zachariades, Grand Vice President Marianthi Treppiedi, Grand President Georgette Boulegeris, Grand Treasurer Margaret Dritsas, Grand Governor Zone I Marianne Boutsioulis, Grand Governor Zone III Tina Bullock, and Grand Governor Zone V Nicki Douklias. Photo Credit: Amar Dewal of BNB Photography NY

2022-2023 AHEPA Family Presidents

Congratulations also to AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas, Sons of Pericles Supreme President Ryan Marinos, and Maids of Athena Grand President Maria Ana Pantelous.
AHEPA Family Supreme Convention 2023

The 2023 Supreme Convention will convene the week of July 24 in Las Vegas, NV.

Founded in San Francisco in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope is the first women’s organization of its kind established in the United States. It is an affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA).

The mission of the DOP is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

For more information about the DOP, or any of its programs or projects, please visit www.daughtersofpenelope.org.

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