

Daughters of Penelope

Supreme Headquarters
1909 Q Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20009



Direct: 202.234.9741
Fax: 202.483.6983
Web: www.ahepa.org/dop
E-mail: dophq@ahepa.org

Daughters of Penelope Elect new Grand Lodge in Athens

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 31, 2008) - The Daughters of Penelope elected **Barbara Stavis Wolf**, of Covington, Louisiana, to serve as the Grand President of the organization for the 2008-2009 year. The election took place during the 86th Annual AHEPA Family Supreme Convention in Athens, Greece, at the Intercontinental Hotel, on July 5, 2008. It was a very historic and memorable Supreme Convention for all of those in attendance. The Convention included meeting deliberations on the future of the Daughters of Penelope, a preeminent international women's organization, dedicated to the promotion of Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence. The Daughters of Penelope have over 10,000 members and chapters in the United States, Canada and Greece. Stavis Wolf is a member of Nestor Chapter #55 of New Orleans, Louisiana.



"It is an honor to be elected Grand President in Athens, the birthplace of Hellenism" said Stavis Wolf. "This year will be a poignant year for the Daughters of Penelope as we celebrate our Eightieth Anniversary which will culminate next July in the city of our founding, San Francisco, for the 2009 Supreme Convention." The Daughters of Penelope were founded in 1929 in San Francisco, with the formation of Eos Chapter #1.

Stavis Wolf noted that, "we draw strength from the many symbols of our Hellenic Heritage here in Athens, which will assist us as we go forward with our plans and vision for the future, utilizing the knowledge and experiences we have gained from our past."

Other significant events that took place during the Convention were the Opening Ceremonies at the Zappeion, Grand Ball at the Goudi, 4th of July Celebration at Glyfada Golf Club Grounds and a pre-opening tour of the New Acropolis Museum located in the historical Makriyianni area of Athens, south east of the Rock of the Acropolis. "All of the fantastic events of this Convention have been so enjoyable, and we greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone that has worked so hard to bring this very successful Convention together", stated Stavis Wolf.

The impressive Installation Ceremony of the new Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge took place in the Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel in Athens, on Sunday, July 6, 2008, while Stavis Wolf's son looked on. "It is so wonderful to have my son here to experience this great moment with me", said Stavis Wolf. Her son, William, a recent

graduate of Virginia Tech University, enjoyed the week of Convention activities as a member of the Sons of Pericles and the Order of AHEPA.

Stavis Wolf, a 33-year member of the Daughters of Penelope, has served all major positions at various levels within the organization, including Chapter President for five terms, Chapter Secretary several times, District Governor, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer and Grand Vice-President. She has also served as Supreme Convention Secretary in 2003 and several times as District Convention Chairman. In 2003, she received the National Penelope of the Year Award. Moreover, Stavis Wolf is a Past Grand President of the Maids of Athena (1976-77). A graduate of Tulane University, Stavis Wolf received her Law Degree from Loyola of New Orleans. Today she is a Litigation Attorney in Louisiana. She is a member of the Louisiana, American and Federal Bar Associations; Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, and has served in the Louisiana Bar Association House of Delegates.

In the community, Stavis Wolf is a past member of the Board of Trustees for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in New Orleans, which is the oldest parish in the United States, having previously served as their Treasurer and Secretary and is an active member of Philoptochos. She was married to the late Richard Wolf and is the proud mother of William R. Wolf. Her parents, the late William and Gladys Stavis, were active in the AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope, respectively.



Also elected to serve on the 2008-09 Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge were: Grand Vice President Elaine Sampanis, West Chester, OH; Canadian President Diane Polesello Lygouriatis, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Grand Secretary Christine K. Constantine, Vernon Hills, IL.; Grand Treasurer Nicky Stamoulis, Seminole, FL.; Grand Governor

Zone I Anna-Hel ene Panagakos, Brooklyn, NY; Grand Governor Zone II Debbie Anton Fletcher, Dayton, OH; Grand Governor Zone III Helen Santire, Houston, TX; Grand Governor Zone IV Jan Spanos, Sacramento, CA.; and Grand Advisor, Maids of Athena Joanne Saltas, Murray, UT.

“Our Grand Lodge has a tremendous amount of experience,” said Stavis Wolf. “I look forward to working with the Lodge to fulfill our mission and accomplish our goals for the year.”

The 2009 Supreme Convention of the Daughters of Penelope will take place in San Francisco, June 29 - July 5, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Embarcadero Center.

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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, please visit www.ahepa.org/dop.