

# Daughters of Penelope

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## Successful Daughters of Penelope District Governor Conference held in D.C.



September 13, 2008, Washington, D.C. - The Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington, D.C. was the location of the 2008 Annual Daughters of Penelope District Conference held on September 13, 2008. The Conference weekend started with a fabulous reception on the rooftop of AHEPA Headquarters at 1909 Q. Street. Patrice, Rory, Basil,

Phil, Campbell and Elena did a fantastic job setting up for this special event. Everyone enjoyed visiting headquarters, conversing, meeting friends and enjoying the delicious food and drink. It was a great reception, enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone at Headquarters for their efforts. The event was hosted by the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope.

The District Governors of the Daughters of Penelope met on Saturday morning with the Grand Lodge, Committee Chairman and others to learn and share ideas. "Empowering our Leaders" was the theme of the Conference, led by Grand President, Barbara Stavis Wolf. Sister Barbara reminded everyone that good leaders are made, not born. "With desire, willpower and effort, anyone can



become an effective leader. It takes self-study, education, training and experience, and is achievable", she said. "A respected leader demonstrates honesty, truth, dedication and selfless service to the organization. Such a leader works sincerely for the good of others." Grand Vice President Elaine Sampanis announced the 2008-2009 Growth and Expansion Program, "Our vision will bring a Brighter Future," and handed out special flashlight/compass/whistle gifts, to shine and direct to a Brighter Future, and the whistle to keep us safe on the way to a Brighter Future. Other topics presented included Headquarters Update, Civic Responsibility, Forms and Applications, District Finances, Public Relations, Public Speaking, Running an Effective Meeting, Maids of Athena, Packing for your next trip, the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, The DOP four mandatory Charity projects for 2009, our Mission Statement, emphasis on



*Hellenism*, St. Basil Academy, Philoxenia House, Penelope's Scroll and much more. All District Governors received a binder filled with information and ideas to help them this year as they work to be an effective leader in their district.



Penelope House Executive Director, Kathryn Coumanis explained how Penelope House was started by the small group of Daughters of Penelope of Mobile, Alabama with just \$26. Her Daughter, Toni Ann, who now works at Penelope House, spoke of the renovations and upgrades recently made to the facility and of the many services provided to so many in need. Civic responsibility Chairman Antoinette Marousis set forth the program this year and Andrew Kaffes, our Government Relations Coordinator spoke on his efforts on behalf of the Daughters of Penelope on Capital Hill and submission of Daughters news to media outlets. The presentation of the Brumidi Medal and the

Daughters of Penelope 80th Anniversary Proclamation are two main projects for this year. DOP Foundation, Inc., President Despina Chrisohou explained the Scholarship Program and the Children's Literacy Project with the sale of very special children's books.



Our special guest speaker, Amalia (Lia) Fidas, a member of the Daughters of Penelope, is a graduate of George Washington University with a B.A. and M.A. in International Affairs and Economics. Lia's career in government service began at the Dept of Agriculture while she was still a student. She later went on to the Department of Commerce and finally the Central Intelligence Agency as an analyst of transnational economic issues. Lia spoke on, "*What will your legacy be?*" advising that a key to success is to imitate success. It is "an idea that is just as applicable for you and our organization." "It's a simple but powerful concept: Imitate success!" she said. Lia encouraged the leaders of the Daughters

of Penelope to find someone who has successfully achieved admired goals, then analyze how they accomplished their goals, and use that in achieving goals by imitating that success of others. Lia explained how she felt her legacy was in large measure the success of her two daughters and her success as a manager in the workplace. Even she was surprised when her oldest daughter said that the legacy her mother gave her was "Never Pay Full Price!" In conclusion, Lia congratulated all of the leaders of the Daughters of Penelope and closed with, "I wish that you soar above all your predecessors in accomplishments and success, and that you exceed all of us in every way, always with pride, integrity and satisfaction in serving the Daughters and our Hellenic heritage."

Also present at the Conference was Philanthropy Chairman Daphne Hallas, Legislation Chairman Angela Magrames, Investment Committee Member Mary Georghiou, Penelope's Scroll Assistant Editor Dorothea Williams, and Past Grand Presidents Helen Beldecos, Joanne Booras, Mary Filou and Karen Stamatiades.



The District Governors in attendance were able to discuss and share ideas and gather new and helpful information from the presentations from the Grand Lodge Officers and others. It was a very informative and exciting day. At the end of the session many District Governors headed down to the bus to attend a Baltimore Orioles baseball game, compliments of the Baltimore AHEPA Chapter. Others headed out to Georgetown or other areas of D.C. for an evening dinner and sightseeing around the U.S. Capital City. It was a fast paced, informative and most enjoyable weekend. Thank you to everyone for attending and participating in this very special conference!