



Newsletter

Daughters of Penelope Citrus District 2



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April 2025

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters,

I hope April brings you the feeling of hope, strength, and much faith as we are approaching the celebration of Easter! It is time to strengthen our faith and do our best to uplift each other in the spirit of Sisterhood and Unity!

Our District 2 Lodge Members truly wish you to discover Empowerment within yourself and share it with your Sisters. We recognize that our strength comes from each other, from the support we offer, uplift, inspire, and lead!

As we are approaching the end of the Year for your current Chapter Executive Officers and Elections, don't forget to look around and try to empower each other. Encourage new leadership, support a Sister to step up in her journey towards embracing a challenge and making a difference. We have the power to shape our future as Daughters of Penelope and seek support from mentors and other active members!

In the spirit of Sisterhood, Unity, and Love, I would love to share with you all the District Visitations we have completed between the East Coast and the West Coast for February, March, and through the beginning of April. The East Coast will be part of my report as District Governor with a small exception, and the second portion will be an extensive report on the West Coast Visitations done by our Sisters – District Secretary Diana Psetas and PDG, and District Advisor Ann Pirrello. Thank you, Sisters, for your hard work and commitment to our District Lodge! Your Leadership has been truly recognized.

District Lodge East Coast Visitations and Events

With that being said, we started the month of March with our visitation to my home Chapter as a District Governor in Boca Raton, Cassandra #372. I still remember when I was President of the Chapter and started my journey with the Daughters of Penelope. It has been truly an amazing one, and now I have the honor to attend as an official guest and District Governor, supported by my District Lodge Sisters – District Treasurer Maria Balasis-Zahn and District Advisor to Maids Rano Bellas. We were able to be part of the initiation ceremony of the new Sisters joining the Cassandra Chapter and welcome them. We were able to share with our Sisters the latest District news and initiatives, including the upcoming District Convention in June in West Palm Beach. Our District Advisor to Maids, Rano Bellas, was able to express how exciting it was for all of us the reactivation of the Maids of Athena Chapter "Sunshine 200" in West Palm Beach, and her ability to connect with all the young ladies across our state. We had a great warm welcome from all the Sisters, and I was given a beautiful bouquet. Thank you, Sisters! You are amazing!

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Palm Beach Fashion Show

Next on our list was attending the Annual Fashion Show in West Palm Beach. As a District Lodge, we couldn't miss the exquisite Fundraiser event that took place at the Ben Autograph Collection Hotel. Our District Lodge Sisters and extended Advisory Board members were in full attendance supporting the West Palm Beach Chapter, Leda #59, of course, me, District Governor D2 Iliyana Simeonova Boyce – District Lt. Governor Stela Stringer, and our extended advisory Board Members – PGP, PDG Connie Pilallis, and PDG Marie Kyriacou.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Tampa Chapter, Alcmaeon #167 Zoom Meeting and District Visitation

Thank you, District Lodge Sisters, for attending - District Lt. Governor Stela Stringer, District Secretary Diana Psetas, and District Treasurer Maria Balasis-Zahn.

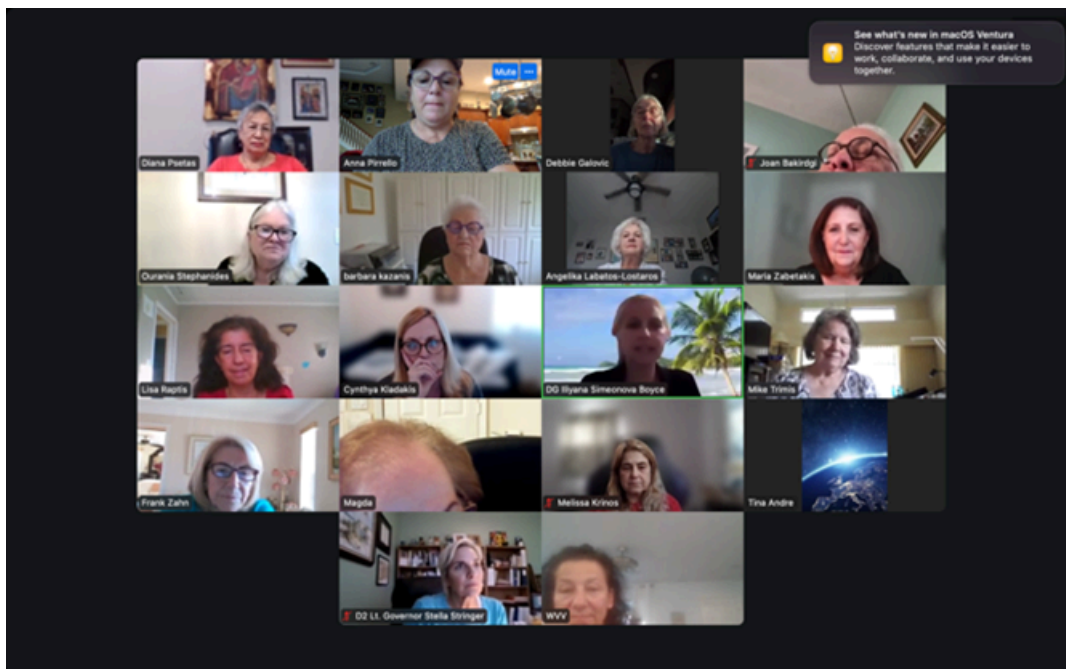
I would like to share the beautiful thank-you email that was sent to us after our attendance. It summarizes it the best!

“Dear District Lodge Sisters,

Thank you so much for attending the Alcmaeon #167 meeting on Tuesday, March 18th, at 6:00 pm. I think you will agree that our Vice-President, Maria Zabetakis, did a great job leading us through a successful meeting on the Zoom platform. We value the input that you, as District Lodge Officers, gave to us that evening. It was also nice for our members to put a face to your name as well. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We wish you continued health, happiness, and success in our Citrus District 2 and hope to see you all in person soon.”

With Love in Theta Pi,
Ourania Z. Stephanides, PDG
President of Alcmaeon #167



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

And the best saves for the last- our small but mighty Daytona Chapter, Syblis #343

Our initially planned in-person visitation and being part of the Daytona Chapter meeting had to be changed to Zoom. It is important for us as a District to support every Chapter regardless of how big it is! On the side of the District Lodge, we had our District Governor, Iliyana Simeonova Boyce, District Secretary Diana Psetas, and District Treasurer Maria Balasis-Zahn attending, including always the highly valuable input of our mentor and advisor, PGP, PDG Connie Pilallis. We expressed as a District Lodge that we are committed to providing them with full support. Sisters from the Executive Board were very happy to share with us their upcoming Fundraiser, "Kentucky Derby Party" – Saturday, May 3rd, from 4 PM until 7:30 PM. Details are below. We encourage other Sisters to attend and support them!



KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY!

You're all invited to experience the most
Exciting 2 Minutes in Sports!

Saturday, May 3rd 4 PM until 7:30 PM

Houligan's 1725 W International
Speedway Blvd, Daytona Beach.

\$35/person includes Buffet, Cash Bar.

"Win, Place, N'Show," Best Hat Contest,
Best Dressed Couple, and a Silent Auction.

Proceeds for College Scholarships.

Tickets are on sale during coffee hour or via
Venmo @Elaine-Pitenis at (386) 299-6522, or Joanne Kalabokes
at (703) 328-5083



Zoom Workshop Answering Questions for the End-of-Year Chapter Reports

Our District Lodge held a Zoom meeting with the goal of the Chapters' Executive Board members to be able to ask questions for the End-of-the-Year Chapter Reports. First, I want to inform you that this year, the Chapter reports have been transformed into Fillable Forms, which means that you can directly type in and delete if necessary. Simply save and send to our District email address with the name of the Chapter you are submitting the reports for. We were able to have a good "Open Table" discussion, share input, and discuss topics that raised questions among most of the Sisters attending.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Save the Date, District Convention West Palm Beach, June 6-8, 2025



We are very happy to announce that Convention Materials have been officially published on our D2 website. You can find it there: Hotel Booking Information, Convention Schedule & Events, and Sponsorship Forms. Simply Go To: <https://dopd2.com/>. At the top, you will find the link. For reference, see the screenshot below.

Convention Schedule

Convention Hotel



Convention Sponsors

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you, this month, to our District Secretary, Diana Psetas, for providing content for the column "Daughter of the Month," which highlights and recognizes the accomplishments of our Sisters across Citrus District 2 each month! Read in our April Newsletter the newly highlighted Sister! She truly deserves the recognition she has received! Below, you can read in further detail and celebrate her accomplishments. Bravo Sister!

Don't miss reading the Maids of Athena District Advisor, Rano Bellas, and her recent updates!

District Governors Zoom Call – "Meet and Greet"

The highlight of my District Report and Message is my attendance at the District Governors ' "Meet and Greet" Zoom Call. I was truly amazed at what every District does across America and the impact we have being part of this wonderful organization, Daughters of Penelope. Our "Meet and Greet" started with us being welcomed by our Grand President, Margaret Dritsas. She shared what a powerful Sisterhood we represent and how much we can empower each other and support others. Thank you to Grand Governor Zone II Efthyhia "Effie" Kirkiles, Liaison to Districts 2, 5, 6, for inviting all District Governors part of the respected Districts she covers. I was very honored to speak about all the wonderful highlights from our District 2. A lot of shared ideas for what works and what could possibly be improved in each District took place as an open discussion. Memorable ideas and getting to know the rest of the Sisters!

"To achieve great things, we must first dream"

As always with Love,
In Theta Pi,
Iliyana Simeonova Boyce
District 2 Governor

WEST COAST DISTRICT VISITATIONS

BY DISTRICT SECRETARY: DIANA PSETAS AND DISTRICT ADVISOR: ANN PIRRELLO

Clearwater - Pelias #186

It was a wonderful and memorable experience for us to visit Clearwater's March Meeting. This Chapter's sisterhood has a history of fellowship. If there's a project that needs to be done, everyone helps! March's meeting provided St. Patrick's Day desserts, one initiation, and a flower arrangement worktable for Assisted Living Seniors hosted by Nina Pazos. The Chapter's highlight fundraiser was the bi-annual Fashion Show luncheon. The chapter donates 80% of its proceeds to AHEPA Family Scholarships in honor of several DOP Clearwater sisters.

New Port Richey - Eros #356

This Chapter visitation hits "home" for us! Constant visitors to the New Port Richey Meetings are Patty Didik, Grand Lodge Treasurer, Ann Pirrello, PDG, D2 Advisor, and Diana Psetas, D2 Secretary. We all started at Eros #356. This night was the annual Vice President's night. We are happy to report that it went smoothly. President Christina Zervas honored Sister Ann Marie Ryan for the quick solution to our PAC A SAC program. This Chapter started a "Game Night" for seniors at the AHEPA House Apartments.

St. Petersburg - Aeneas #210

By Nicky Stamoulis, PGP

"Our meeting took place on March 10th at 6:30 PM. District Advisor Ann Pirrello was welcomed by sixteen sisters in attendance. Our Secretary, Maria Gregory, arranged for a speaker, Dr. Blythe Blackwell from Fyzical Physical Therapy. Dr. Blackwell made a good point in emphasizing the importance of movement and pelvic floor physical therapy. Sister Ann spoke to us about different informative items from the District: National and District Conventions, District Fundraiser/ Raffle, and she urged us all to attend. We enjoyed a light dinner with Sister Ann afterward. Sisterhood is a wonderful family..."



WEST COAST DISTRICT VISITATIONS

**BY DISTRICT SECRETARY: DIANA PSETAS
AND DISTRICT ADVISOR: ANN PIRRELLO**

Sarasota - Aetolia #466

Ann Pirello, PDG and District Advisor, and Diana Psetas, District Secretary, visited the newest Chapter Aetolia #466, Sarasota. Nicky Stamoulis, PDG, President of Aeneas Chapter, #210, and godmother of Aetolia Chapter, was in attendance.

We initiated four new Sisters, and this Chapter reinstated a member in January.

The Chapter's sisters in two months increased their membership, had a successful charity clothing drive we witnessed, and began making plans for another event.

The President, Isa Velez, M.D, PDG in New Jersey, has provided a great foundation in three months! Our visit was memorable!



WEST COAST DISTRICT VISITATIONS

**BY DISTRICT SECRETARY: DIANA PSETAS
AND DISTRICT ADVISOR: ANN PIRRELLO**

Tarpon Springs - Periboea #62

Tarpon Springs Chapter visit by PDG and District Advisor Ann Pirello and District Secretary Diana was their last on the calendar. We saw membership growth, social opportunities, and of course "BLINGO" fundraising report. But it brought up an all-around chapter challenge:

Where will the next leadership go? We encourage our sisters. If you are a Mom, Aunt, or honorary mother, "YOU are a leader with experience." We encourage all leaders/sisters to step up to the next level...a leadership role 2025-2026 Daughters of Penelope Sister. They initiated 6 new members. Bravo Sisters!



DAUGHTER OF THE MONTH

BY DISTRICT LT. GOVERNOR: STELLA STRINGER

ANN MARIE RYAN – EROS #356, NEW PORT RICHEY

We would like to honor Ann Marie Ryan, chapter Sister since April of 2021. She implemented two major fundraisers that provided donations to 20 charities.

She is a past Vice President. Her most rewarding hobby for our chapter is making gift baskets to raffle off. At March's chapter meeting, we had a severe project problem. We did not have enough money in the project account to supply for our PAC A SAC children's weekend food.

Sister Ann Marie is on the board of the national organization, Volunteer Way, New Port Richey. Ann Marie was able to get donations of food for two months from Volunteer Way within days.



WEST COAST NEWS

BY DISTRICT SECRETARY: DIANA PSETAS AND DISTRICT ADVISOR: ANN PIRRELLO

Tampa News, Alcmaeon #167

The Daughters partnered with Philoptochos and collected school items to “ERASE THE NEED” in Hillsborough County. We are grateful to all who contributed to making this collection of school supplies a great success. Representatives of the Daughters and Philoptochos delivered the collected school items to the Hillsborough Education Foundation. The Hillsborough Education Foundation is working to “ERASE THE NEED” by distributing needed items to the students. In addition, the representatives delivered two checks, one from Philoptochos and one from the Daughters



WEST COAST NEWS

**BY DISTRICT SECRETARY: DIANA PSETAS
AND DISTRICT ADVISOR: ANN PIRRELLO**

Clearwater News, Pelias #186

Clearwater Fashion Show

The Fashion Show was supported by Tampa, Sarasota, Tarpon Springs, and New Port Richey Chapters. The Fashion Show was a great success! Sisterhood in this event prevailed as a connection that a family would be proud of.



MAIDS OF ATHENA

BY DISTRICT ADVISOR TO MAIDS: RANO BELLAS

The Maids of Athena (MOA) Sunshine Chapter 200 helped make over 500 sandwiches for the homeless at St. Ann's Place in West Palm Beach.



CHAPTER EVENTS

April to Easter- Clearwater Pascha Plants [Flyer](#)

April 1-13 St Petersburg- Selling Lilies for Easter [Flyer](#)

April 20-Easter Sunday

April 26-Clearwater-Tour

of The Tampa Museum of Art Antiquities Collection [Flyer](#)

May 4-New Port Richey-2025 Pasco County First Responder Charity Golf
Tournament- [Flyer](#)

Cancellation of The Fundraiser below

May 3-Orlando Kentucky Derby Party [Flyer](#)