

St. Demetrios Pythagoras School Board

The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios operates three schools: Pythagoras Children's Academy (PCA), a full-time parochial day school currently serving Preschool through fifth grade; Pythagoras Greek School (PGS), a Monday/Wednesday evening language and culture school; and Pythagoras Saturday Greek School (PSGS), a weekend language and culture school. The St. Demetrios Pythagoras School Board is the governing body that oversees the operations of the parish's schools. The School Board is made up of nine voting members, and one ex-officio member (the Proistamenos or head priest of the community). Members must be in good standing with the Church and are elected to two-year terms. School Board committees must be chaired by a School Board Member, and each member must serve a committee or other leadership role. The 2018-2020 School Board was elected in spring 2018 and was sworn-in on August 1, 2018. The terms expire July 31, 2020.

OFFICERS:

Thomaie Neris



School Board President for 2018-2020

teh.pythagoras@gmail.com

Thomaie was born and raised in Elmhurst. Her and her husband, Ryan, have two children and their eldest is currently a student at PCA. Her family have been members of the Saint Demetrios community for nearly 40 years. Thomaie graduated from Pythagoras Greek School in the 1980s. While in high school, Thomaie recalls her parents along with other community parents organizing in their kitchen to establish Pythagoras Children's Academy as a Greek Orthodox parochial day school. Witnessing her parents' drive to establish a school, Thomaie was inspired to study education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she received a bachelor's degree in French and Secondary Education. Thomaie later completed a master's degree at the University of Chicago where she studied Human Development. Thomaie then received her master's in Educational Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is now certified to be a school principal.

However, instead of pursuing an administrative role in a school, after 12 years in Education, Thomaie returned to her family business at Ergoseal and now serves as Integrator. Thomaie oversees the daily operations of the company from budgeting to on-time delivery to professional development. She runs weekly leadership meetings, meets regularly one-on-one with employees, and ensures that both employees and customers have all that they need to succeed at their work. Thomaie focuses on building a strong and healthy working culture.

Thomaie is excited to work with the Pythagoras Schools principals, staff members, parents, and community members to help take our schools to the next level.

Lee C. Zachos



Treasurer for Pythagoras Children's Academy 2018-2020

703-628.4554

Leozachos@gmail.com

Lee Zachos is the Manager for Public and Private Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory. In this capacity, he helps maximize the impact of the laboratory's federally funded research by identifying economic development priorities at the regional, state, and local levels.

Lee moved to the Chicago area from Washington D.C. in 2010, and has been a parishioner at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios Elmhurst for the past eight years. He has two daughters, ages 6 and 3, who both attend the Pythagoras Greek School. Lee also coaches basketball for the grade school boys as part of the Metropolis of Chicago GOAL Basketball League.

Lee holds a Master's of Science Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Seton Hall University.

Peter Eliopoulos



Treasurer for Pythagoras Greek Schools & Co-chair for Technology Committee, 2018-2020

Peter Eliopoulos is a Senior Associate and Chief Information Officer for Demonica Kemper Architects, an architecture and interior design firm located in Chicago's West Loop. Since graduating from the University of Illinois in 1996, his career has been focused on the education segment with clients and projects ranging from day care centers through college/university facilities. As CIO, he leads all efforts related to the firm's information technology strategy and the computer systems required to support it. Peter is also a board member for his Home Owners Association and currently serves as Treasurer.

Peter and his wife, Harula, have two children. Their son is an alumnus of Pythagoras Children's Academy and attends Pythagoras Saturday Greek School, and their daughter attends Pythagoras Children's Academy.

Jenny Mitropoulos



Secretary for 2018-2020 & Curriculum/Instruction Committee member

jennymitropoulos@hotmail.com

Jennifer Mitropoulos is a retired professor, reading specialist, who taught methods of reading at the graduate and undergraduate level at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. Previously she taught reading at all grade levels, K-12, in the public-school system. Before her teaching career, she was a pediatric nurse in Chicago. Her nursing degree was from The Cradle Society in Evanston, Illinois. She continued her education and earned a BA from National Louis University and her Master's degree as a Reading Specialist from Benedictine University. Jennifer completed her Doctoral classes in Teacher Leadership at Walden University. Jennifer is enthusiastically looking forward to donating her time and talents as a member of the Pythagoras School Board for the betterment of the school and its community and moving it forward in growth and development into the 21st century.

BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS:

Eustathia Panousis



Eustathia was born and raised in Elmhurst, IL and her family has been a member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church for over 50 years. Her parents immigrated to the United States and became members of the church in the 1950's, and gave her the great opportunity to grow up in an environment strong in Orthodox and Hellenistic values. She graduated from the Pythagoras Greek School in the 1980's and participated in various church ministries such as Fanari, GOYA, Basketball, Cheerleading, Folklore Dance etc. In addition, she danced in 2 Greek Folklore dance troupes for over 15 years. Eustathia graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana with a degree in Finance. Her experience spans across several industries such as banking, restaurant & banquet, and consumer packaged goods. For the past 14 years Eustathia has been working at PepsiCo and is currently a Supply Chain Project Manager for the Quaker Branded Business. She is also serving our community as secretary on the Parish Council.

Kalina Giannakopoulos



Co-chair for Curriculum/Instruction Committee & Fundraising Committee for 2018-2020

Kalina Giannakopoulos enjoyed teaching High School English in District 200 for nearly ten years. She studied English and Secondary Education at DePaul University. Kalina continued her schooling soon after at Aurora University, and earned her Master's in Educational Leadership/Type 75.

Kalina and her husband, Dean, reside in Elmhurst and are active members of the St. Demetrios Community. Their eldest son currently attends Pythagoras Children's Academy.

Dr. Angela Tagaris



Co-chair for Technology Committee for 2018-2020
teachangela@yahoo.com

Angela Tagaris is a Professor at Concordia University currently teaching education courses to undergrad students, educational technology to graduate students and doctoral teacher leadership classes, and supervises student teachers. Angela is a retired middle school teacher who has taught science, social studies, language arts, and music for 35 years. After graduating from Northeastern and obtaining her BA/MS in Education, she went on to earn her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Doctoral Degree in Teacher Leadership. She looks forward to serving on the School Board at Pythagoras and considers it to be an honor and a pleasure to help our students and teachers make Pythagoras a Great School that parents will want to bring their children to.

Joanna Manaves



Co-Chair, Fundraising/Gala Committee for 2018-2020
Jmanaves73@gmail.com

Joanna has earned her B.S. in Accounting at DeVry University. She is the Vice President of Supply Chain for Greencore USA (previously Peacock Foods) and has been with the company for 24 years. Joanna oversees customer service, production planning, inventory control and scheduling activities from Greencore's headquarters in Downers Grove Illinois. Before assuming her current position in 2002,

Joanna Manaves performed a range of accounting and financial services for Production Packaging, Inc., the Geneva-based company that Peacock Foods subsequently acquired. She also handled a range of information technology and human resource responsibilities. Outside of work, Joanna is also a National Director of the United Hellenic Voters of America.

Joanna and her husband, Peter G. Manaves, have been members of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church for over 30 years. Their son, George, has attended Pythagoras Day School since pre-school and is currently on his 7th year at PCA. Joanna is an advocate of the Greek-American parochial schools. Joanna has been on the school board since 2016 and is serving her second term.

Deb Markos



Co-chair for Curriculum & Instruction committee & School Improvement Chair for 2018-2020

Dpmarkos3@gmail.com

Deb was born and raised in Gloucester, Massachusetts. She graduated from Salem State College with a degree in Elementary Education in 1977. Deb moved to Lombard in 1980 and raised two children. She received her Master of Science in Elementary Education from Northern Illinois University in 1999. Deb was employed by Lombard District 44 for twenty years and retired in 2012.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER:

Reverend Father Andrew G. Georganas



Father Andrew Georganas is the Proistamenos of The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios.

He joined the parish of St. Demetrios in 2001. As Proistamenos, Father Andrew serves as ex-officio member of the School Board, as well as other organizations/ministries of the parish. He attends School Board meetings, and directs and implements religious education at all three schools.