

## 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 2016-2018 School Board was elected in spring 2016 and was sworn-in on August 1, 2016. The terms expire July 31, 2018.

### OFFICERS:

#### Harry J. Fournier, Esq. - President

[hjf.pythagoras@gmail.com](mailto:hjf.pythagoras@gmail.com)



Harry J. Fournier is a principal of the Fournier Law Firm, Ltd., located in Oak Brook, Illinois.

He has been practicing law since 1997, with a heavy concentration in real estate transactions. Harry's practice involves representing clients in the sale, purchase or leasing of residential and commercial properties. He also represents clients in the formation of new entities (corporations and LLCs), purchasing or selling small businesses, contract formation, civil litigation, estate planning and probate.

He graduated from Northwestern University School of Law in 1997, and also holds an MBA "With Distinction" from DePaul University Kellstadt Graduate School of Business, as well as a B.S. in Finance from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a past president and past chairman of the board for the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois, Inc. Harry is a member of the Illinois Real Estate Lawyers' Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and the DuPage County Bar Association. He's also an Arbitrator in Cook and DuPage Counties under their Mandatory Arbitration Programs, and is chair-qualified in DuPage County.

Harry also serves on the Board of Directors for the Hellenic American Dental Society, Inc. as its Legal Advisor; is a member of the Parish Council for The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios, and is the immediate past Supreme Counselor for the Pan-Arcadian Federation of America.

Harry and his wife Koula have two daughters, both PCA alumni and currently attend Pythagoras Saturday Greek School.

This is Harry's second full term on the School Board. As President, he leads board meetings and is lead spokesperson for the School Board. The School Board President oversees School Board committees. He represents the School Board on the Parish Council.

## **Nick Kostopoulos - Secretary**

[kostopoulosnick@yahoo.com](mailto:kostopoulosnick@yahoo.com)

As Secretary, Nick is charged with recording and disseminating minutes of each School Board meeting.

## **John Alexandrakis – Treasurer, PGS/PSGS**

[johnbalex5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnbalex5@sbcglobal.net)

This is John's second term on the School Board. As Treasurer of the two Greek Schools, he manages tuition collections and financial affairs for the schools, and presents monthly financial reports to the School Board. He is also an active participant in budgeting initiatives of the School Board.



## **Elias P. Soupos, Esq. – Treasurer, PCA**

[esoupos@pca.com](mailto:esoupos@pca.com)

Elias Soupos is a partner and patent attorney with the law firm of Leydig, Vogt & Mayer, Ltd.

Born in Chicago, Elias was raised in Greece and returned to the U.S. after studying metallurgical engineering at the National Technical University of Athens. In 2000, he earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 2004; he completed a Master of Engineering Management degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.; and also earned a *Juris Doctor* degree from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, in 2007.

Prior to beginning his law career in 2007, Elias worked as an engine design engineer in the automotive industry.

Elias and his wife Vickie have two children, both alumni of PCA and currently students at PGS.

This is Elias' second term on the School Board. As PCA Treasurer, he manages the automated billing and collection system for PCA, as well as financial affairs for the school; and presents monthly financial reports to the School Board. He is also an active participant in budgeting initiatives of the School Board.

## BOARD MEMEBERS:



### **Dr. Angela Tagaris – Member, Curriculum Committee**

[teachangela@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



### **Jennifer Mitropoulos – Member, Curriculum Committee**

[jennymitropoulos@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Deb Markos – Co-chair, Fund Raising Committee**

[dpmarkos3@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### **Thomaie Hilaris – Chair, Curriculum Committee**

[hilaris.thomaie@gmail.com](mailto:hilaris.thomaie@gmail.com)

Thomaie Hilaris is an educator with the Chicago Public Schools. She studied French and Secondary Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received a Master in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago. She has researched the development of cultural identity through educational curricula and the effects of bilingualism on the cognitive development of children. Thomaie is currently pursuing a master's degree in Educational Organization and Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign. A 9-year veteran teacher of Chicago Public Schools, Thomaie currently teaches French at Whitney M. Young Magnet High School. She engages her students in language and culture studies through the use of media materials.

Thomaie and her husband, Ryan, have two children. Their 4 year old daughter is currently a student at PCA.

This is her second term on the School Board. As chair of the Curriculum Committee, Thomaie is active in planning and directing curriculum-related initiatives, especially for PCA. Currently, she is actively creating curriculum maps for PCA, and evaluating any areas for curriculum enhancement and upgrade for the coming school year. She also serves on the interview panel for prospective teachers and participates in making hiring recommendations.



**Joanna Manaves, Co-chair, Fund Raising Committee**

[jmanaves73@gmail.com](mailto:jmanaves73@gmail.com)

Joanna has earned her B.S. in Accounting at DeVry University. She is the Director of Planning and Materials Management for Peacock Foods and has been with the company for 22 years. Joanna oversees customer service, production planning, inventory control and scheduling activities from Peacock’s headquarters in Geneva, 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 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 20 years. Their son, George, has attended Pythagoras Children’s Academy since pre-school and is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Joanna is an advocate of the Greek-American parochial schools.



**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.