

National Philoptochos Society 2014-2016 Committee Report



Archives/History

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2015 Historical Reflections

National Philoptochos is grateful for the guidance, leadership and support of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, who led us through an important and wonderful year 2015 filled with expanded philanthropic endeavors. We also thank our Spiritual Advisor, His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, for his constant support and the Philoptochos Chapters, members and stewards nationwide who continue to accelerate their commitment to the Philoptochos mission and open their arms and hearts with love and support to those most in need. As Philoptochos we reflect with humility, joy and gratefulness upon the important philanthropic works collectively offered in 2015.

The Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy

The National Philoptochos completed its second year in its new home, the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy, and greeted many visitors to the Center who praise this wonderful acquisition and admire the magnificent Chapter Giving Tree that adorns an entire wall. The Center houses our dedicated National Philoptochos staff and is the home for the National Board to hold meetings, receptions and other gatherings. National Philoptochos is poised to expand social services and to offer workshops and varied webinars in the Center to promote understanding and leadership for the members.

National Philoptochos Recognized

- March 2015 – The Daughters of Penelope honored National Philoptochos with its Philanthropy Award in ceremonies at its headquarters in Washington D.C. Daughters of Penelope President Anna Helen Grossomanides presented the award to National Philoptochos First Vice President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, who accepted the award on behalf of National President Maria Logus and the entire Philoptochos membership. His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, the National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor, was also in attendance representing His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.
- May 2015 – Hellenic College Holy Cross Graduation – National President Maria Logus presented scholarships to male and female students pursuing a life in support of the Church.
- October 2015 – Hellenic College Holy Cross Presidential Inauguration – National President Maria Logus offered moving remarks on behalf of National Philoptochos to the hundreds in attendance for the Inauguration of Reverend Christopher Metropulos as the new president of HCHC.

Saint Nicholas National Shrine

National Philoptochos has undertaken a major campaign that engages each Philoptochos member and Chapter to raise funds in support of this important edifice that will serve as a beacon for humanity overlooking the memorial garden and fountains at the World Trade Center. The National Board participated in a unique and moving afternoon during its May meeting in New York City that included walking tours, private tours of the Shrine construction, the 9/11 Museum and the new World Trade Center Tower. Members and Chapters from across the country are holding special programs and events to raise funds in support of this historic campaign so that the Saint Nicholas National Shrine will shine as an Orthodox Church, a National Shrine and a Sign of Hope for all who visit the site.

National President Sets Chapter Outreach Goals

National Philoptochos President Maria Logus set a vision and goals for National Philoptochos and the Chapters, *“to engage all members of the community in our work so that Philoptochos is fully integrated into the Church’s life.”* She introduced the Feed the Hungry program with a national goal to serve 250,000 meals in eighteen months before the National Convention. We are well on the way to reaching this goal. Chapters are encouraged to continue ‘hands on philanthropy’ so that members participate in more meaningful engagement.

Fifteenth Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon

The Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon, held October 31, 2015 in Boston, MA was a resounding success with over 650 guests and supporters from across the United States. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, noted that this biennial event has become a Super Luncheon and a Banquet of Love, raising life-saving funds for critically ill children and their families. Television personality Maria Stephanos charmed the audience as Master of Ceremonies and Guest Speaker Jeanette G. Clough, President and CEO of Mount Auburn Hospital, provided information about health and social issues plaguing our youth. Rosemary Nikas, Chair of the 2013 CMF Luncheon held in Pittsburgh, was honored for her good works. National Philoptochos President Maria Logus and Luncheon Chair Frances Levas presented donations totaling \$167,000 to ten hospitals, university research programs and special programs serving young people with disabilities. Beck Shutte, a visually handicapped young man, received a standing ovation as he spoke with his Braille iPad about attending the New England Disabled Sports program. Archbishop Demetrios concluded the program, expressing joy and offering gratitude for the hospitality of Metropolitan Methodios and the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos.

Philanthropic Giving

Chapters continue to raise important funds in support of the Philoptochos ministries and in response to crises through such campaigns as Aid to Greece and Cyprus and Nepal Disaster Relief.

Make A Difference Day

National Philoptochos partnered again with Nick Katsoris and the Loukoumi Foundation to engage children in 4000 Acts of Kindness in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for his Name Day.

On a Sad Note

National Philoptochos lost two of its long time Honorary Members in 2015. Eula Caras Carlos had been on the National Board for thirty years and was a generous benefactor for Philoptochos and the Church in America as well as many philanthropic community endeavors. Sophia Altin served on the National Board for over thirty years attending all the meetings and generously supporting the philanthropic works. Kula Sosangelis, also a thirty year member, is remembered for her total commitment to the organization. May their memory be eternal.

85 Years of Philanthropy

National Philoptochos will celebrate its 85th Year of Philanthropy in 2016 highlighting the organization’s important work and the work going forward to the 100th Anniversary in 2031. Archbishop Demetrios stated at the CMF Luncheon that Philoptochos has enhanced its original mission by responding to all those who are in distress, for the sick, victims of fires, earthquakes and floods, for the old, the lonely, the forgotten and those beyond the United States.

Philoptochos Looking Forward – 2016

Members prepare for the upcoming National Philoptochos Biennial Convention July 3-7, 2016 in Nashville, TN where the Metropolis of Detroit will once again roll out the red carpet at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. Each Chapter should plan to send delegates to participate in the special programs that are planned so they may return to their Chapters inspired and energized to continue their important philanthropic work.

As National Philoptochos looks forward to 2016 and beyond, we acknowledge the tremendous nationwide support that allows the Philoptochos women to continue their philanthropic mission, to further expand the Philoptochos reach and to participate together through the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy to build sustainable leadership for the future.