

National Philoptochos Society 2014-2016 Committee Report



Saint Photios Shrine

Chair: Joanne Stavrakas
Liaison: Evangeline Scurtis
Members: Betty Lantz, Joanne Mitchell, Dee Nicolaou

- Provides financial assistance, encourages awareness and involvement in the National Shrine, a religious and cultural center dedicated to our Greek Orthodox ancestors who arrived in St. Augustine, Florida
- Is a living memorial to the first colony of Greek settlers, 400 in all, whose love of freedom and a better life brought them to the New World in 1768 where they found their “Plymouth Rock” in St. Augustine, Florida
- In 1965, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese purchased the Avero House, and His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, of blessed memory, dedicated the restored Saint Photios Shrine in February 1982; the consecration of the Saint Photios Chapel followed in February 1985
- Is a self-supported institution of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; depends on contributions from Philoptochos (discretionary chapter donation in February), parishes, AHEPA, Daughters, other organizations and individuals
- The newly designed “Wall of Tribute” lists individuals, parishes, Philoptochos Chapters and organizations that have fulfilled their pledge of \$2000. This was a resolution passed at the 2002 Clergy Laity in Los Angeles for all parishes to support the Shrine, which is a beacon to our visitors, of commitment, outreach and witness of our Orthodox faith
- The Pilgrimage Celebration is held in February close to the Feast day on the 6th of the month with Great Vespers, a Memorial and Annual Luncheon
- Annual Essay Contest for teens 13 to 19 years of age to research and write on one of two topics, with cash prizes in each category
- Greek Landing Day is celebrated in June and commemorates the day in 1768 when the largest European Colony arrived in America, including 500 Greeks; the city of St. Augustine is declared Greek for the day with a Mayoral Proclamation following ecclesiastical services in the Chapel of St. Photios Shrine
- Become a “Friend of the Shrine,” support “Light a Candle,” or purchase ecclesiastical items for your parish
- With continued generous donations, our Shrine will continue to illuminate all in the Holy Orthodox faith.

*For additional information please contact Poxeni (Polly) Hillier, Director
of Saint Photios Shrine at phillier@stphotios.org*