

2016 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION
GAYLORD OPRYLAND CONVENTION CENTER
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016

The 2016 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention was called to order by Presiding Officer Theone Dickos at 9:30 A.M. Thursday, July 7, 2016, at the Gaylord Opryland Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

The opening prayer was offered by Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.

Spiritual Reflections were offered by Father Louis Christopoulos who stated we thank you for your beautiful ministry of Philoptochos. We honor you for your philanthropic work – you are “lovers of the poor”. Father closed with “be open to people of all backgrounds – let’s take the bar up another level”.

President Maria Logus thanked all who participated in the Feed the Hungry initiative this morning – “Feeding Children Everywhere”.

Credentials Committee Report

Cindy Demeris, Credentials Co-Chair presented the Credentials Committee report as follows:

Registered Delegates	Number 375
Delegates in Attendance	Number 317
Observers	Number 6

The credentials report was accepted.

Minutes of Wednesday, July 6, 2016

The minutes of Wednesday, July 6, 2016, were presented by Convention Secretary, Joyce Spanakis, who moved for their adoption.

Amendments to the minutes are as follows:

Pg. 1 – correction to spelling of first name of Miss America to Baciliky.

Pg. 1 - correction to name of Metropolitan Damaskinos of Kydonia and Apokoronom.

Pg. 1 – platform for Miss America is corrected to state Healthy Kids – Strong America.

Pg. 2 – correction for Autism Grant recipient is the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Pg. 2 – Making a Difference Bloomfields, MI, Icons were given to “OCMC”.

Pg. 2 - Making a Difference, Rye, NY correct to “made by”.

Pg. 3 – St. Nicholas update, insert “organization” to precede donations.

Pg. 3 – HCHC, correct spelling of name of Rev. Fr. Metropulos.

Pg. 3 – IOCC, \$35,000 donation is for H₂O Project West Bank in Gaza and the Women’s Sustainable Agriculture Program.

Pg. 3 – Thistle Farms and Magdaline Homes, donation of gift cards presented totaled more than \$8,500 and also included Icon Card of the Guardian Angel.

Pg. 4 – Leadership Institute, correct to state Evellyn Tsiadis (not she) asked everyone to stand and raise their torch.

Following the corrections as stated, the minutes were adopted.

Presiding Officer Dickos thanked Joyce Spanakis and the other two secretaries for all their work with the minutes.

Water is Life

In their introductory comments, Pat Gogos and Marilyn Tzakis, Environment Responsibility Committee members stated “water is the source of all life”. In 1995, His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew known as the Green Patriarch formed the religious science and environmental committee with the focus of this committee continuing to this day. His All Holiness has stated “Christ Himself is the Living Water”. Pat then introduced Dr. Gwen Griffith, DVM, MS Program Director, Cumberland River Compact who began her presentation by stating “Water is Life” that is essential with a Spiritual, Social and Economic focus. It is the symbolic unity of the earth itself. Points covered by Dr. Griffith included:

- Must protect water at its source watershed
- Conserve and use wisely
- Water and energy are interdependent
- Three ways to sustain water
 - Education – Behavior Change – Consumer Choices
 - Technology
 - Public Policy and Incentives
- EPA Water Sense Program
 - Faucet Aerators – increase water availability up to 50%
 - Water Conservation Kits

In closing, Dr. Griffith stated water efficiency is good for the bottom line, is a good investment for families and for our communities. “Water is our future”.

A donation of \$500 was presented by President Logus to Dr. Griffith for Cumberland River Compact.

President Logus then presented a donation of \$50,000 to the Co-Chairs of the Committee for UNICEF Irene Steffas and Ourania Soumas for the US Fund for Children First, UNICEF.

Chapter Challenge

- Metropolis of San Francisco, St. Spyridon, San Diego, CA “Blessings from Philoptochos” which provides Blessing Bags for homeless men, women and children. Hope is there for them!
- Metropolis of Pittsburgh, St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA “FOCUS on Feeding the Children” which provides food for 2,000 children on the North side of Pittsburgh so they can eat over the weekends.

2018 Chapter Challenge Appointments

The following chapters were selected to participate in the Chapter Challenge and will present their projects at the 2018 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention:

Direct Archdiocesan District – St. Paraskevi, Greenlawn, NY

Metropolis of Chicago – Assumption, Town and Country, MO

Metropolis of Boston – St. George, Springfield, MA

Metropolis of Denver – St. George, Albuquerque, NM

Metropolis of Atlanta – St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL

Metropolis of Detroit – St. Nicholas, Ann Arbor, MI

Metropolis of Pittsburgh – St. Paul, N. Royalton, OH

Metropolis of San Francisco – St. John the Baptist, Las Vegas, NV

Metropolis of New Jersey – Cathedral of St. John the Theologian, Tenafly, NJ

2016 Chapter Awards

Chair Dee Nicolaou and Co-Chair Vickie Scaljon presented the 2016 Chapter awards. All the awards are listed in the Awards Booklet which was distributed to each of the delegates. Three hundred and forty-two chapters fulfilled all of their commitments. For the Metropolis of Chicago and the Metropolis of New Jersey, 100% of their chapters fulfilled their commitments.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 pm.

Meeting reconvened by Presiding Officer Dickos at 1:45 pm.

85th Anniversary Celebration featuring the 85th Anniversary Video

Hosted by the Metropolis of Detroit, an exuberant celebration of song and dance commenced followed by the introduction of the 85th Anniversary Video by Christine Karavites, Chair, and Secretary on the National Philoptochos Board. The video was a very moving tribute to 85 years of Philanthropy and included a message from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America. Of note is from 2005-2015, \$16,194,221.00 was donated by Philoptochos members throughout the US.

Men in Black

Presiding Officer Dickos invited His Grace Bishop Sevastianos to the podium who introduced the video Men in Black by Johnny Cash. At the conclusion of the video, His Grace read the lyrics from the song and stated the message of the song is very meaningful to him. Delegates were visibly moved by the lyrics and appeared to understand the significance of the lyrics to the role and responsibilities of the Clergy.

Credentials Report

Cindy Demeris, Credentials Co-Chair presented the Credentials Committee report as follows:

Registered Delegates	Number 375
Delegates in Attendance	Number 298
Observers	Number 6

The credentials report was accepted.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

President Logus moved it be resolved to His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, Convention Co-Chairs and all present that, the 2016 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention is successfully concluded.

President Logus expressed her profound gratitude to Co-Chairs Irene Arsoniadis and Theone Dickos, the Detroit Metropolis President Margaret Yates, Board Members Maria Stavropoulos, Eleni Zaferes and Katherine Kotsis, Tasoula Gaddis, President of Holy Trinity Chapter Nashville, all the committees of the convention, secretaries and all attendees.

Note - Chapter award correction by Margaret Yates – although not listed in the Awards Booklet, the Memphis, TN chapter did meet their 2016 commitments.

Co-Chairs Irene Arsoniadis and Theone Dickos expressed their gratitude to Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, the Detroit Metropolis, Holy Trinity Chapter Nashville, Helen Lavorata and the staff of the National Office, National Board members, Juliana Arsoniadis Mourelatos, Noel Jemas, His Grace Bishop

Sevastianos of Zela and, above all, to our National President Maria Logus. "We are most grateful for your confidence in us and the opportunity to chair the convention."

His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, stated "You are not here to make decisions – You are here to make Disciples". Thank you for being the voice of Christ – the hands – the feet – the heart.

Announcement

The Children's Medical Fund Luncheon will be held November 11, 2017 in the Metropolis of New Jersey.

Closing Prayer offered by His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.


The 2016 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention was adjourned by Presiding Officer Theone Dickos at 3:00 pm.

Carol Stamas
Secretary



July 26, 2016 _____
Date

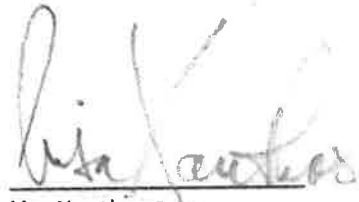
Approved by:



Diana Dine
2016 Minutes Committee



Maria Kalogerou



Lisa Xanthos