

**2018 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
**Boston Marriott Copley Place**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**



**MINUTES**  
**Thursday, July 5, 2018**

The 2018 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention was called to order by Presiding Officer Elaine Zetes at 9:23 A.M. on Thursday, July 5, 2018, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts.

The opening prayer was offered by His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, who then introduced Rev. Father Nicholas Louh from Saint John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church of Jacksonville, Florida to offer the spiritual reflection of the day.

Elaine Zetes introduced guest speaker, Amy Sarma, MD, from the Corrigan Women's Heart Health Program in Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Sarma spoke about the mortality of women from heart disease and how to help prevent cardiovascular disease in women.

**Credentials Committee Report**

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

Registered Delegates:	360
Delegates in Attendance:	355
Delegates Scanned:	301
Observers:	9

Chair Elaine Zetes moved the adoption of the Credentials Report, and it was adopted.

**2018 Chapter Challenge Presentation:**

Metropolis of San Francisco, Saint John the Baptist Philoptochos, Las Vegas, Nevada

“Warmth for the Homeless”

Diana Jianas presented on behalf of Saint John the Baptist Philoptochos Chapter # 4037 of Las Vegas, Nevada. The goal of this Chapter Challenge program was to provide “extreme cold” sleeping bags to homeless adults and children.

**Educational Initiative:**

Carol Stamas, National Philoptochos Board Chair, provided a tour of the resources on the **Women's Health Initiative** page on the Philoptochos website. She also introduced her committee. The committee is requesting reflections from members who are cancer survivors for the website. Ms. Stamas announced that the committee is beginning work on its next health initiative, cancer.

President Maria Logus, Esq., reminded the delegates that at the 2016 Convention, she declared her hope that Philoptochos would become an advocate for education. She thanked and commended all of the educational initiative committees for their hard work and the time they dedicated to develop the resources

for their initiatives. She also asked the delegates to forward suggestions for additional initiatives they would like Philoptochos to develop.

### **Minutes of Wednesday, July 4, 2018**

The Minutes of Tuesday, July 4, 2018, were presented by Convention Secretary, Philippa Condakes.

Elaine Zetes moved for the adoption of the minutes with the following corrections:

- Page 2. In every instance, the Fund 2018 CMF should be changed to 2017 CMF
- Page 2, next to last paragraph. The July 2 donation to the THRIVE Clinic was disbursed from the General Medical Fund, not the CMF 2018 Fund.
- Page 3, first paragraph. Correct the spelling of Valine Georgeson's name.

The July 4, 2018 Minutes, as corrected, were adopted.

### **Resolutions Committee Report**

The Resolutions Committee report was presented by Irene Steffas, Esq., Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Two resolutions were presented for discussion and approval. The resolutions are listed below in their entirety.

#### **Resolution #1:** Presented by the National Philoptochos Executive Board

Subject: A Resolution to Amend the National Philoptochos By-Laws to expand the modes for Board Meetings.

WHEREAS, the Directors of the Boards of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of North America reside in different cities and states all over the country; and

WHEREAS, it is not always feasible for Board Directors to meet in person; and

WHEREAS, frequent and active participation of Board Directors is needed to operate the business of the Society; and

WHEREAS, determining a quorum may be observed by taking roll call and or through various software applications; and

RESOLVED, that any Board of Directors may participate in board meetings of their Parish Chapter, Metropolis, National and Executive National Board by means of a telephone, video or similar communication device, which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other speak and such participation in the meeting shall be deemed present in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Board  
of National Board of  
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of North America

This Resolution, if passed, will amend the Society By-Laws at the following sections:

#### ARTICLE III: NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chapter (Section) 5: Meetings *Currently* there are four (4) Paragraphs: 1. Frequency; 2. Notice & Agenda; 3. Special Meetings; and 4. Quorum. ADD PARAGRAPH 5:

5. Mode of Participation in Board Meetings

Any one of the Board of Directors may participate in meetings of the *National Board* and the *Executive National Board* by means of a telephone, video or similar communication devices, which allow all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and such participation in the meeting, shall be deemed present in person.

ARTICLE IV: METROPOLIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chapter (Section) 4: Meetings *Currently* there are four (4) Paragraphs: 1. Frequency; 2. Notice & Agenda; 3. Special Meetings; and 4. Quorum. ADD PARAGRAPH 5:

5. Mode of Participation in Board Meetings

Any one of the Board Directors may participate in a meeting of the Metropolis Board by means of a telephone, video or similar communication devices, which allow all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and such participation in the meeting shall be deemed present in person.

ARTICLE V: PARISH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 7: Meetings *Currently*, there are three (3) Paragraphs: 1. Membership Meetings; 2. Chapter Board Meetings; and 3. Chapter Executive Board Meetings. Focusing on Paragraph 2. Chapter Board Meetings, which includes (a) Frequency; (b) Notice & Agenda; (c) Special Meetings; and (d) Quorum. ADD SECTION (E) TO PARAGRAPH 2:

(e) Mode of Participation in Board Meetings

Any one of the Board Directors may participate in a meeting of the Parish Chapter Board by means of a telephone, video or similar communication devices, which allow all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and such participation in the meeting shall be deemed present in person.

Irene Steffas moved for adoption of the Resolution. Discussion ensued. Anita Kartalopoulos made a motion to amend the Resolution to reflect – “Any member or members” in Article III, Article IV and Article V. Arlene Siavalis Kiehl, seconded the motion. The Motion to Amend the Resoution passed. The question was then called for the adoption of the Resolution, as amended. An amendment to the By-Laws requires an affirmative vote of greater than 2/3 of the delegates. The delegates stood and were counted. The Motion to Amend the By-Laws according to the Amended Resolution #1 passed.

**Resolution #2:** Presented by St. Catherine Philoptochos Chapter #4046 of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos

Subject: A Resolution to Amend the National Philoptochos By-Laws to remove the \$5,000.00 limit on local Chapter Reserve Funds.

WHEREAS, Individual Philoptochos Chapters have obligations and needs for funds, and;

WHEREAS, Chapters have varying opportunities to raise funds, depending on their size and location, and;

WHEREAS, as the economy changes, establishing a dollar limit on Chapter reserve funds would not reflect the original value of that dollar, be it therefore;

RESOLVED, that there is no set dollar limit for Chapter Reserve Funds.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristina Mehas, President  
Joanne Zarkades, Treasurer  
Teresa Maschinsky, Assistant Treasurer  
Janice Xydis  
Mary Loubarton

This Resolution, if passed, will amend the Society By-Laws at the following section:

Article V: Parish Chapter, Section 9: Finances, Paragraph 3. Reserve Fund – Currently reads:

Each Chapter must maintain a reserve fund for emergency charitable needs, not to exceed five thousand dollars.

Proposed Amendment:

Each Chapter must maintain a reserve fund for emergency charitable needs. Delete: not to exceed five thousand dollars.

Irene Steffas moved for adoption of the Resolution. Discussion ensued. The question was then called for the adoption of the Resolution. An amendment to the By-Laws requires an affirmative vote of greater than 2/3 of the delegates. The delegates stood and were counted. The Motion to Amend the By-Laws according to Resolution #2 was defeated. The By-Laws will not be amended.

#### **2018 Chapter Challenge Presentations:**

Metropolis of Pittsburgh, St. Paul Philoptochos, North Royalton, Ohio.

“Ronald McDonald House Akron”

The Chapter sponsored 3 rooms at Ronald McDonald House Akron for one year with a donation of \$15,000. In addition, they raised funds for the community meal at the North Royalton Community Meal and served 200 meals. They also served meals at a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ronald McDonald House in Ohio.

Metropolis of Chicago, Assumption Philoptochos, Town and Country, Missouri.

“Life’s Final Journey” to benefit Hospice House for Adults and Children, Evelyn’s House

The Chapter raised \$20,111.00 with \$10,000.00 being donated to the Hospice House and the balance of the funds used for additional items necessary to make everyone’s stay at the hospice more comfortable.

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

“SPARK of Faith, Hope and Love, Helping the most vulnerable children of Greece and Cyprus”

Stella Baker, President of Philoptochos Chapter St. Philothea, gave the presentation. The Chapter helped 6 ARK locations for children throughout Greece and the CCF Group in Cyprus. Over \$95,000.00 was raised in goods and funds for this project, including the purchase of 25 sheep.

#### **2019 Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon:**

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos announced that the 2019 National Philoptochos Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon will be held in Chicago, Illinois on November 16, 2019 at the Chicago Marriott on Michigan Avenue. Hotel reservations can be made for \$169.00 per evening.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:59 P.M.

The Meeting was called to order by Barbara Pasalis at 2:06 P.M.

### **Superman: Don't Forget to Show Love**

Barbara Pasalis introduced "Superman.," four-year-old Austin Perine, from Birmingham, Alabama, who asked his parents if he could use his allowance and forego all his presents to use the money to feed the hungry. He distributes chicken sandwiches to homeless people and tells them, "*Don't Forget to Show Love.*" A video presentation was shown, and a Zoom video call was conducted with Austin and his father. Feed the Hungry Chair, Georgia Vitas, then explained to Austin that Philoptochos has served over one million meals and asked him what he likes best about feeding the homeless. He replied, "When I see them smile." Philoptochos then presented a check for \$1,500.00 to Austin's 501©3 Show Love Foundation.

### **Educational Initiative:**

The **Alzheimer's Disease** Initiative was presented by Katherine Siavelis and Peggy Vranas, Co-Chairs of the New Philanthropic Initiatives Committee. Ways to help both the patient and the patient's family were discussed.

**Inclusion Ministries** was presented by Marilyn Jemas and Katherine Siavelis, National Philoptochos Board Members. The PowerPoint presentation, "*Pick Up Your Cross and Follow Me*" – A Ministry for Those with Special Needs and Their Families," developed by Pres. Toni Mihalopoulos was shown. Every chapter should develop a program that is appropriate for their parish.

Information for all educational initiatives is on the National Philoptochos web site.

His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, shared closing thoughts with the delegates. "This has been one of our best conventions," he said. He thanked President Logus, the Convention Co-Chairs and the Host Committee for an exemplary conference.

President Maria Logus, Esq., then presented Barbara Pasalis and Elaine Zetes icons as an expression of thanks, love and appreciation for their work chairing the convention. President Logus, Esq., also thanked His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela for his guidance and support. Jeannie Ranglas, First Vice President, then presented President Maria Logus, Esq., with a gift from the Executive Board in appreciation for her work over the past two-year term.

### **Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy Tradition of Love Tree:**

Anita Kartalopoulos, Center of Philanthropy Chair, gave a presentation on the "Tradition of Love Tree," which will be similar to the Chapter Tree now hanging in the Center. Members can purchase leaves 'in honor of' or 'in memory of' a loved one: Platinum leaves, \$5,000; Gold leaves, \$2,500; and Bronze leaves \$1,000.

### **Chapter Awards:**

The 2016-2018 Chapter Awards were presented by Theone Dickos, Chair in an entertaining Academy Awards format. Theone announced that all chapters who fulfilled **100% of their Ministry Commitments** will receive a certificate from their Metropolis President. All awards will be listed on the National Website.

### **Best Outreach**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Metropolis of San Francisco, Chapter 4033, Saint Helen Chapter, Cardiff-By-The-Sea, CA
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Metropolis of Denver, Chapter 8018, Saint Catherine Chapter, Greenwood Village, CO

#### ***Best Inreach***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Metropolis of New Jersey, Chapter 1084, Ladies Philoptochos Nausica, Elkin Park, PA
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Metropolis of Detroit, Chapter 7002, Evangelistria Chapter, Carmel, IN

#### ***Best Fundraiser***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Metropolis of Atlanta, Chapter 5054, Elpis Chapter, New Orleans, LA
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Metropolis of Chicago, Chapter 2019, Saints Peter and Paul Philoptochos, Glenview, IL

#### ***Most Meaningful Chapter Program***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Metropolis of New Jersey, Chapter 1018, Saint Demetrios Philoptochos, Baltimore, MD
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Metropolis of Chicago, Chapter 2019, St. Mary's Philoptochos, Minneapolis, MN

#### **Membership Awards**

##### ***Chapters with 20 Members or Less:***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chapter 6009, Zoodochos Peghe, Martins Ferry, OH – plus 9 members
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Chapter 8057, St. John the Theologian, Webster, TX – plus 12 members

##### ***Chapters with 21 – 49 Members:***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chapter 8030, St. John the Baptist, Omaha, NE – plus 38 members
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Chapter 8056, St. Basil the Great, Houston, TX – plus 39 members

##### ***Chapters with 50 - 99 Members:***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chapter 5002, St. Demetrios, Daytona Beach, FL – plus 24 members
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Chapter 0087, Church of the Resurrection, Brookville, FL – plus 29 members

##### ***Chapters with 100 - 199 Members:***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chapter 3067, Annunciation, Cranston, RI – plus 51 members
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Tie
  - Chapter 1092, St. Katherine, Falls Church, VA – plus 58 members
  - Chapter 0056, Holy Cross, Brooklyn, NY – plus 58 members

##### ***Chapters with 200 or more Members:***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Chapter 1034, St. John the theologian, Tenafly, NJ – plus 48 members
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Chapter 1082, St. Luke, Broomall, PA – plus 67 members.

#### **Feed the Hungry Program**

Chair Georgia Vlitias showed a PowerPoint presentation and announced that Philoptochos met and surpassed its challenge by providing **1,343,734 meals**. She revealed that Chapter #6003, Annunciation Philoptochos of Akron, Ohio served the millionth meal and had served 263,000 meals. Diamon Marcum, president of the Akron chapter then told the delegates about Akron's phenomenally successful feed the hungry program. Georgia Vlitias then announced the new challenge for 2018-2020:

- Provide over 1.5 million meals across the country
- Announce the chapter within each metropolis that provides the most meals

- Announce the chapter that serves the millionth meal

### **2020 Chapter Challenge Appointments:**

President Logus announced that the following chapters have been selected to participate in the 2020 Chapter Challenge Projects and will present their projects at the 2020 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention:

1. Metropolis of Atlanta
  - a. Chapter #5046, President- Thalia Fergione, St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC
2. Metropolis of Boston
  - a. Chapter #3004, President- JoAnn Ballassi, St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, New London, CT
3. Direct Archdiocesan District
  - a. Chapter #0060, President- Vasiliki Dinas, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church, Flushing, NY
4. Metropolis of Denver
  - a. Chapter #8033, Joanna Spahis, St. Barbara Philoptochos Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Dallas, TX
5. Metropolis of Detroit
  - a. Chapter #7025, Kim LaForest, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Sterling Heights, MI
6. Metropolis of Chicago
  - a. Chapter #2019, Georgia Ryerson, St. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Glenview, IL
7. Metropolis of New Jersey
  - a. Chapter #1023, Carol Pappas, St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherryhill, NJ
8. Metropolis of Pittsburgh
  - a. Chapter #6003, President-Diamon Marcum, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
9. Metropolis of San Francisco
  - a. Chapter #4012, President- Dara Phillips, Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Northridge, CA

### **Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business.

### **New Business**

Barbara Pasalis announced that the convention newsletter, THE VOICE, will be sent out in an electronic version. It will contain all of the convention highlights with links to all of the speeches and presentations.

Please complete the post-convention survey to assist us in planning the next convention.

A heartfelt thank you was expressed to all convention chairs and sponsors. They will all be listed on the National Website.

### **Credentials Committee Report**

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

Registered Delegates:	360
Delegates in Attendance:	355
Delegates Scanned:	267
Observers:	N/A

The credentials report was adopted as the final convention credentials report. President Maria Logus, Esq., asked every delegate to act as an ambassador for Philoptochos. Use the stump speech and the elevator speech that are available through the national office.

President Maria Logus, Esq., thanked everyone for coming.

Evangeline Scurtis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President mentioned the many compliments she received from the Clergy and Laity for our having provided over 1 million meals in a two-year period.

Evangeline Scurtis also discussed Social Services and the importance of having a committee for social services decisions, proper documentation and a budgetary limit on individual support. Finally, please do not give out cash. Use gift cards or pay a bill directly to vendor.

### **Delegate Update**

Elaine Zetes thanked all for coming and said that she hopes to see all at the banquet.

### **Closing Prayer**

In the absence of His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, the closing prayer was offered by Evangeline Scurtis.

There being no further business, Presiding Officer Elaine Zetes adjourned the meeting at 4:33 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stella Piches, Secretary

07-26-2018


Date


These Minutes were reviewed and amended as follows by the 2018 Convention Minutes Committee:


- Page 1, Credentials Committee Report:
  - Line 6 – Add “for” after “moved”
- Page 3, Paragraph 5. Mode of Participation in Board Meetings
  - Line 3 – Add comma after “other” and remove comma after “meeting”
- Page 3, ARTICLE IV: METROPOLIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Paragraph 5. Mode of Participation in Board Meetings
  - Line 3 – Add comma after “other”
- Page 3, ARTICLE V: PARISH BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section (e) Mode of Transportation in Board Meetings
  - Line 3 – Add comma after “other”
  - Line 6 – Change “Resoution” to “Resolution”
- Page 5, Chapter Awards:
  - Line 1 – Add comma after “chair”
- Page 6, Feed the Hungry Program:
  - Line 3 – Insert name of Akron chapter president: Diamon Marcum
  - Line 4 – Change “old” to “told”
  - Lines 4 and 5 – Change “feed the hungry” to “Feed the Hungry”
- Page 7, New Business:
  - Line 2 – Change “inks to al” to “links to all”




Approved as amended by the 2018 Convention Minutes Committee:

  
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Despina Denne                      Date                      8/18/18

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Cecchini                      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Konstantinidis                      Date                      9/09/18

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Georgia Charkalis                      Date                      9/10/18