

2018 Philoptochos Convention
Small Group Breakout Sessions – July 4, 2018

Discussion Topic: Fundraising

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Once introductions were made and handouts distributed, discussions started with some points to fundraise effectively. These included:

1. Build a strong presence
2. Itemize expenses
3. Keep records
4. Believe in your cause
5. Thank each of your donors

We asked everyone for their main challenges with fundraising. Mostly everyone listed the following as their main challenge:

1. Volunteers to do the work
2. Getting chairs, no one wants to take responsibility for an event.
3. Finding new and fresh ideas
4. Parish council involvement
5. Finding room on church calendar, too many events
6. Lack of participation
7. Burnout
8. Continually asking people for donations
9. Setting a fair price for events
10. Getting out information about the event
11. Not allowed to hold raffles. Some churches/priests or states do not allow

Discussion followed addressing many of these challenges. Some remarks and suggestions made were to:

- Organize event so a chair has a guide.
- Keep a record of previous events to alleviate confusion.
- Specify what fundraiser is for and dedicate funds for this specific event.
- Include all members as chairs of events
- Meet in summer to decide on dates for events and get on the church calendar early.
- Decide what you can do to make your event a priority.

- Do a virtual invitation. Create an invite and post on FB. Send all chapter presidents an email to the event.
- Be assertive when asking for donations.
- State you are giving people an opportunity to help. People seem to think they are doing you a personal favor when you ask them to give.
- Understand that people might want to give to one organization rather than another cause. Don't write them off.
- Give a lunch to thank everyone for their donation during the year and showcase organization that were helped with the fundraiser.
- Younger people tend to participate or donate more if we partner with other known organizations.
- If it is an organization for a local cause, you will get more assistance and support from outside the church.
- Use a Go Fund Me Page for people to donate who cannot personally attend an event.
- Let parishioners know how much was raised for recent fundraiser and where the funds went.
- Do a philanthropy report for all parishioners to read

The following are some successful fundraisers that were discussed:

- Hold a Cooking Class – Chair picks a menu and entrée. Dessert and wine served.
- Radio Mystery Theatre – Play and dinner
- Mother's Day Luncheon – Celebrating all Mothers
- Power of Pine – Benefiting Cancer Society
- Mother's and Father's Day Memorial Service – Honors all with names in booklet and send postcards to honorees.
- Create aprons with a Greek Food Pyramid – Feta on top, Baklava, pasticho, etc
- Sweet Treats from the Geeks – Bake sale with sign up sheets in Dec.
- Trivia Night – Questions with prizes, Dancing/Dinner.
- Used Jewelry Sale
- Tabletop Christmas Trees – Decorate and raffle them off
- Autumn Food Fair
- Brides of the Decades Fashion Show
- Bake-less Bake Sale – Donate what you would spend on ingredients and time baking.
- Yiayia's Attic – Sell donated items
- Ornament Exchange – Have hostesses decorate tables, have dinner catered. Two days before event, sell tickets at nominal fee to have people come and view tables. Serve coffee and pastries.
- Vasilopita Piece Sale – Auction off pieces
- Christmas Card – charge \$20 per name
- Fashion Show – Have sponsors that will give a percentage of sales and outside raffle
- Vendor Fair
- Rummage Sale – Split proceeds with parish council

- Walk a thon – host breakfast, walk to another church, host lunch
- Men Who Cook – Men bring food and do all the cooking
- Greek Dancing with the Stars
- Philoptochos Boutique
- Greek Costumes Fashion Show – Have history of different costumes
- Virtual Walkathon – Have people purchase a cut out sneaker (\$5), write their name on it and display for a month
- Koliva and Artoclasia – Charge \$5 per name and have priest read all their names
- Plant a Rosebush – Charge \$50 and plant on grounds of church
- Paint and Wine Evening – Purchase a ticket, receive supplies. ½ proceeds go to promoter and ½ to Philoptochos
- Mini Festival – Proceeds go to Philoptochos
- Chinese Auction – After receiving donation, charge \$20 for a chance on donated gift cards valued at \$25 to \$100. Pick a displayed sealed envelope
- Charge for Koliva – Supply Koliva for a set fee
- Sell Loukomathes during Lent
- Soup Supper Social – Soup, salad and dessert
- Marakarias – Supply fish dinners at a set price
- Credit Cards with money back
- Stroller Patrol – Have young mothers come help with their babies in Strollers
- Community Easter Cards
- Greek Wine Tasting Event – Have a sommelier bring wines to taste
- Macy's Shop for a Cause – Sell \$5 shopping discounts
- Gyro Fest – Distribute flyers to businesses for lunch menu. Serve with fries/salad

DON'T FORGET TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED AND DONATED!!!