

2018 Philoptochos Convention
Interactive Discussion Sessions – July 3, 2018

Discussion Topic: Open Forum with the National Officers

Officers: Maria Logus, President
Jeannie Ranglas, 1st Vice President
Joanne Stavrakas, 3rd Vice President
Barbara Pasalis, Secretary
Martha Stefanidakis, Treasurer
Georgia Vlitas, Assistant Treasurer

Opening statement by President Maria Logus – “We serve, that is what we do.”
I have been a member of Philoptochos since the age of 18. My mom chaired the 1988 Philoptochos Convention here in Boston at the same hotel. You learned as children how to serve God, your church, your community, it was a “way of life.”
National Board officers also introduced themselves.

What are you interested in, what do you want to see and hear from us? (Blue)

First time delegate asked President Maria, what has been your biggest surprise in your capacity as President?

Maria’s response: the struggle between young and old, bridging the gap and growing membership.

Suggestions:

Approach and speak to potential members during fellowship hour after liturgy.

Pass out a brochure. (Leadership Committee is working on a booklet as a tool)

Don’t give up, pursue them to join.

Engage new members “to do something” they like. (Many have embraced Feeding the Hungry)

Use videos as educational opportunities shared with your chapter. (On the Philoptochos website)

Make forms on website user friendly, in Word not PDF.

Another delegate inquired about the \$625 registration fee.

President Maria explained how the cost per delegate is actually closer to \$800, the sponsorships help to defray some of the costs and keep the fee at \$625. The price of coffee service in the meeting was cost prohibitive and will only be served on one day. Further explained how the National Board has been having their meetings at churches instead of hotels to keep expenses low.

Why do we give more funds to Saint Basil then we give to HC/HC?

We, Philoptochos owns Saint Basil Academy, purchased it in 1944 with \$500 down and in one year finished paying for it, \$44,000. No funds come from the Archdiocese. The yearly

Vasilopita commitment generates funds that are distributed over the calendar year. This is the 75th year of the Academy. FYI – a member of the San Francisco metropolis Board was raised at Saint Basil.

Houston's successful Vasilopita Auction celebration this year raised \$47,000.

We assist HC/HC with 2 commitment appeals each year, Spring is for maintenance, Fall is for scholarships and they do receive funding from the Archdiocese. Metropolises and chapters adopt Seminarians to assist them with their tuition and fees.

Maria asked how many of you are first time delegates, tell us what you want from us? (Purple)

First time young delegate from Irvine, CA said she came because of her devotion to her chapter President and was most impressed with HC/HC and Mr. Tim Tassopoulos, COO of Chick file.

Young, first time delegates and officers in their respective chapters from **the** Metropolis of Chicago expressed their admiration for what Philoptochos does and stands for. Collaboration between the seasoned and new members make a difference to create a balance and bring value to the mission of Philoptochos.

One stated "I am a convert. I have embraced the faith, I believe in our mission and accept the challenges. Attending the convention enables you to gain confidence, knowledge and organizational skills to take back and share with your chapter."

Another stated "I am a cradle Philoptochos, independent woman, born and raised in the church.

California delegate asked Maria to visit and it was suggested that National Board members visit in and around their respective Metropolises

Concern, men join but still want to have a vote.

In Buffalo, NY twelve men joined during the Membership drive.

New Jersey, men join, help and don't care if they have no vote.

Husbands and wives work side by side for their church, their faith and an example for their sons and daughters.

Different men respond differently. Different chapters respond differently.

In Pensacola, FL, elderly members approach others and encourage involvement.

In Fresno, CA they use a diverse approach and let members choose a project they like to encourage involvement. (Angel Babies – Bridal gown used to make burial gowns for premature infants that don't survive. Make blankets and hats too.)

In some chapters in Florida, membership doubles in winter.

President Maria stated we can revisit the 2004 decision regarding men as associate members.

Maria asked the last group what we can do for them? (White)

Delegate concern:

Priests in some parishes want to control the Philoptochos treasury.

Response was: Keep in mind the mission and funds raised in the name of Philoptochos are to be used for philanthropy and be transparent.

Show the priests your budgets and let them know what you do, be on the agenda at General Assembly meetings, give a report, let the Priest know Philoptochos is their “best friend,” and “what can we do for you.”

Across the nation there are still a few parishes where there exist other woman’s auxiliaries, some blended and/or joined Philoptochos, a few did not.

In some parishes Philoptochos and Daughters of Penelope chapters work together.

Maria answered a delegate question regarding email/zoom decisions and voting.

A resolution will be presented on the floor referencing the concern and noted that the National Executive Board resides across the Archdiocese and has on occasion utilized emails and conference calls to make urgent and necessary decisions. This is not in place of meetings.

How are National Board members selected?

National Board is appointed based on percentage of members in each Metropolis.

In conclusion:

Chapters need to stay connected to their Metropolis, attend the Presidents and/or Regional meetings, and Metropolises stay connected to National. Attending the convention is a worthwhile opportunity that makes the connection real, we are here for each other to do for others!

We the Philoptochos, are part of the church as a whole. All women across the Archdiocese can learn from each other, human contact works best.

“How well you lead determines how well you serve.”