

2018 Philoptochos Convention
Interactive Discussion Sessions – July 3, 2018

Discussion Topic: Social Services

Facilitators: Evangeline Mekras Scurtis, 2nd Vice President
Lily Katos, Social Services Committee Co-Chair
Stella Pantelidis, Social Services Committee Co-Chair
Lekita Essa, National Philoptochos Board

It was disturbing to realize that so many Chapters do not have a Social Service/Philanthropy committee. It was a sad realization that many Chapters do not have a form for financial assistance (and have never seen the National Philoptochos form) and do not have a cap for financial aid. (We had the complete form poster size displayed)

Many Chapters have their priest make the decision as to whom financial assistance is granted. Many Chapters give their priest whatever he asks for with no documentation.

We emphasized the importance of filling out documentation so there is back up if ever needed. We emphasized the importance of having a committee that will work with discretion. We emphasized that the priest is a spiritual advisor to the Chapter. We emphasized that we do not supplement monthly income. We assist once (unless Chapter cap is not met).

We reviewed the Social Service commitment to National at \$350 but of course can donate more funds if the Chapter is able to. We also reviewed the “order” for assistance. First the Chapter, then the Metropolis and then National which has a cap of \$7500 per family.

We stressed that Social Services/Philanthropy is the core and heart of Philoptohos. We must have a compassionate heart when reviewing a request and always with dignity for the person applying.

We emphasized that no payments are made to an individual. Checks are payable to vendors only. Most requests are for housing, rent, utilities and medical bills.

We feel there needs to be more communication from National to Chapters. It is obvious from the lack of knowledge the delegates in attendance expressed at the workshops that there is a breakdown in communication between the Metropolis Presidents and the Chapter Presidents. Many delegates were new with no guidance from past Chapter presidents.

We recommend training/guidelines for Chapters and to prepare a step by step section on the website to help follow through correctly.

Respectfully submitted for the breakout committee,

Evan