

## National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 President's Report



### Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos *Anastasia Michals, President*

Your Grace Bishop Sevastianos and Beloved Sisters in Christ:

Under the Arch-pastoral leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos and the forty-nine Chapters making up our Philoptochos, I greet you with love in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Board of Directors met on November 27, 2017, at the Office of the Metropolitan. His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos blessed the work of the Philoptochos ministry and spoke briefly about the importance of hosting the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon. He spoke about the fact that raising funds that will go towards the healing of children was so very important and he was proud of the fact that our event was such a huge success.

A discussion was held on how the next Children's Medical Fund Luncheon can be improved. It was decided that our Metropolis would put together a handbook similar to the one created by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. The committee chairs will each write their piece and the handbook would be put together based on their input.

The Metropolis of New Jersey was fortunate enough to be given a Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Handbook, which was drafted by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. In the final flurry of excitement, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh decided to capitalize on their position, which was the last in line to deliver an exciting and successful Children's Medical Fund Luncheon program. New Jersey studied their Handbook and moved ahead. As I report on the success of the New Jersey Metropolis' Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, it is important to remember that the Handbook drafted by Metropolis of Pittsburgh has yet to be adopted by the Executive Board of National Philoptochos or the Board at large.

As the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos steps back and breathes a sigh of relief from the flurry of activity of the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon 2017 we spent much of our time on certain housekeeping chores such as a review of chapter responsibilities and obligations. We are very proud of our chapters as they move forward to work on certain philanthropic and charitable projects. These include those that pertain to hands on projects such as Feed the Hungry activities. Almost all of our chapters have adopted a program to feed the hungry in their own communities. The success of their endeavors is apparent when they report their numbers to National Philoptochos.

National and Metropolis Commitment Reports were given to the Board and it was noted that our Metropolis is doing well in this area. A Per Capita report was reviewed. Per Capita for 2017 showed that the Metropolis of NJ has close to 3500 paid members. We are thinking that by the time the Boston Convention takes place we will be reaching our goal of having all our chapters meet every commitment, both National and Metropolis. Our Per Capita will have grown significantly.

Once again the Metropolis is working with the sisters of the All Saints Greek Orthodox Monastery in Calverton, New York, on the HOPE Project, which puts together survivor totes for women who are easing themselves back into a normal life after being human trafficked. This is a project that is designed to help women recover from the trauma of being trafficked.

Our Metropolis held its Clergy Laity on May 7<sup>th</sup> and through His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos the Philoptochos had the opportunity to view a heart tugging video about parents who lost their son due to an opioid addiction. The Metropolis is extremely involved in the healing of those who have been robbed of their lives due to the addiction. The Metropolis Opioid Response Effort (M.O.R.E.) has been adopted by our Metropolitan and Philoptochos awaits his decision as to how we can get involved in the program.

As our Metropolis Board of Directors serves to assist and support the many chapters of the Metropolis through efforts to encourage chapter growth and understanding of the philanthropic mission, we find the presence of a common challenge that exists in most chapters. That challenge is the need to either recruit women who are naturally able to lead the organization, or to train those who are already in leadership positions to maximize their potential for leadership. True leaders work to put into place action items to increase membership. They tap into the gifts and talents that exist in all Greek Orthodox parishes around the country. This is also an area that needs attention; a house will not crumble if the foundation is strong. Without good leadership and understanding of the role of every officer and board member in each chapter, there will not be a complete fulfillment of the ministry's Mission. We are gratified to know that along with our efforts to support our leaders, National Philoptochos is working in this area, as well.

Compassion and love for Philoptochos makes our Ministry one that is Christ-centered in the One Church, because this is what Christ has taught us. Along with 'servant leadership' we must understand that the organization must operate through leadership that teaches what philanthropy and charity is all about. Let us pray for each other, as sisters and brothers, and for His strength, which will allow us to continue to sacrifice, forgive and serve in order to live His Teachings.

**Matthew 23:11 'But the greatest among you shall be your servant.'**

Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos  
Anastasia Michals, President