

National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 President's Report



Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos *Barbara Vittas, President*

It is an honor to extend greetings to all delegates of the 2018 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention from the 13 states of the Metropolis of Denver. Our 33 chapters and 1,377 members are spread over a vast expanse of the United States, yet we maintain communications and work diligently to further the mission of Philoptochos with love and compassion.

Since our last Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, our country has experienced many hardships caused by natural disasters with widespread, catastrophic flooding in many areas of the country, including extensive damage in Texas and along the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Harvey. Funds from National Philoptochos and from chapters across the country provided relief to survivors in the form of emergency supplies of food, water and medicine in addition to long-term recovery assistance to help residents rebuild.

As a Metropolis, we continue to support seminarians of Holy Cross School of Theology with scholarships and financial aid. Over the past two years, we have awarded over \$11,000 to seminarians from the Metropolis of Denver.

The Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos members remain truly committed to the mission of Philoptochos. Since 2016, the Metropolis of Denver has distributed \$69,653 for outreach, including National Philoptochos and Metropolis ministries. We embrace National Commitments and Programs as well as the following Metropolis endeavors:

- Religious Education
- Youth Endowment
- Mission and Prison Ministries
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship
- Bishop Anthimos Scholarship
- Youth Ministries
- Social Services
- St. John's Woman's Monastery

The ladies of our Metropolis Philoptochos respond to needs whenever and wherever they arise. As the world changes and societies evolve, we will develop new programs to meet new and unforeseen challenges. Our Board liaisons work with all 33 chapters throughout the Metropolis to provide National updates, confirm progress on Metropolis goals, answer any questions and address and concerns, strengthen relations and promote better lines of communication with the Metropolis and National Philoptochos. We work hard to bridge geographic distances between our chapters.

With deepest thanks to our beloved Metropolitan Isaiah, the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos held its biennial conference on May 4-7, 2017 in Denver, Colorado. Forty-two delegates had an opportunity to participate and interact with each other to share philanthropic ideas and projects and to elect the Metropolis Board for the next two-year term. Workshops on financial responsibilities, membership and a tutorial on elections were led by Board members. These workshops allow us the opportunity to work with our chapters to review procedures, concerns and goals. A very informative presentation was made by the director of “Streets Hope”, a shelter in Denver for victims of human trafficking. A luncheon was also held during the conference at which over \$7,000 was raised to benefit our Bishop Anthimos Scholarship Fund. Commitments were also made by many chapters to host “Pop Up Kafes” to support much needed aid to Greece and Cyprus.

All chapters in the Metropolis have been collecting food items and providing meals in their areas to fulfill the initiative of feeding over one million meals for the “Feed the Hungry” campaign initiated by our National President, Maria Logus. The rewards of this program not only support food for those in need but also bring together parishioners and Goyans to partner with Philoptochos in this very worthy endeavor.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah for his spiritual guidance, love and support of Philoptochos. I also extend a special thank you to my Metropolis Board and to our chapters for all their support and dedication to the mission of Philoptochos.

Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos
Barbara Vittas, President