

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
June 2024



Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology

Chairperson: Jeannie Ranglas, Metropolis of San Francisco

Members: *Marian Catechis (Denver), Philippa Condakes (Boston), Stacia Counelis (SF), Vickie Demos (SF), Mari Lou Diamond (SF), Kathy Gabriel (SF), Patricia Gogos (DAD), Athena Kalyvas (Boston), Elaine Kevgas (Boston), Katherine Kotsis (Detroit), Eugenia Kourlos (Boston), Helen Malachais (Atlanta), Matina Pappas (Boston), Irene Politis (Atlanta), Christine Psefteas (SF), Eleni Stamboulidis (Boston), Chrissy Zografos (DAD)*

The following members were appointed by President Arlene Sivelas Keil for a more balance/equitable distribution of National Philoptochos members throughout the country.

Hellena Chrones (Chicago), Despina Denne (Pittsburgh), Theone Dickos (Detroit), Alexis Limberakis (NJ), Diane Saphos (NJ), Joyce Spanakis (Pittsburg), Joanne Stavrakas (Chicago), Barbara Vittas (Denver).

COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY:

On April 1st National Philoptochos hosted the graduating seminarian students of *Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology* at the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy as part of their visit to New York City. His Grace Bishop Athenagoras, Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor, joined the evening to offer his pastoral guidance and prayer for the group. A beautiful presentation by National Philoptochos Director, Amy Kalogeropoulos, Director of Social Services, Paulette Geanacopoulos, and other members of the National Board who talked "Philoptochos" with the young seminarians, educating them on the Philoptochos mission and how integral it is for a parish community to work in consultation with Philoptochos women in their future parishes. The two-way dialogue also provided the ladies with provoking questions and ideas for the future of the Philoptochos ministry.

One of goals of the National HCHC Philoptochos committee is to educate the seminarians and students in all that is Philoptochos. We are in the final stages of implementing a two-day seminar conference this Fall at the school to embrace all the students with focus on the Seminarians as well as all students. We have had great interaction and conversation and support with the newly appointed President Katos.

Scholarships Distributed by The National Executive Philoptochos Board

- Fall 2023 Scholarships to 17 students including 2 International students totaling \$44,000
- Spring 2024 Scholarships to 13 students totaling \$63,000

A discussion followed on how we can better engage with the all the HCHC students who will be our future Priests, Deacons, Lay Leaders, Teachers and Volunteers.

Financial, Personal Outreach and Relationship Development:

- ❖ **Seminarian Financial Support:**
 - Establish an annual fundraising event through each Metropolis to financially support their respective Seminarians and HCHC students via the HCHC Financial Aid Office to offer financial support to alleviate a portion of their financial burden to offset tuition.
 - The Metropolis of New Jersey hosted a successful event this year, Metropolis of Atlanta hosted one last year as well as the DAD.
- ❖ **Adopt A Student Program:**
 - Mentoring, adopting a student/seminarian/family to give support – not just financial – care

packages, a note, gift cards.

- Provide regular communications about their respective Seminarians attending HCHC introducing them and their life story, their families (if applicable), home parish, prior education or work history, service in the church, etc. to Metropolis Chapter President's & Chapter Membership so they get to know them. Send greeting cards on holidays, Saint's Feast Day and Birthday.
- Create fundraisers by a Chapter and Metropolis to help students with small gifts or with tuition.

❖ Graduation Annual Dinner Celebration by Metropolis:

- Make a commitment to have Metropolis Board members attend HCHC graduation in support of your respective Metropolis graduates and encourage your respective Metropolitan to attend each and every year.
- Coordinate and host an annual Graduation Celebration Dinner the Thursday night prior to graduation in honor of your graduates (& their families) by Metropolis.

Our commitment to supporting the seminarians and students of Hellenic College/ Holy Cross is a reflection of our deep faith and dedication to the future of the Greek Orthodox Church. We are proud of our contributions and look forward to continuing this vital work, ensuring that our future spiritual leaders are well-equipped to guide our communities with wisdom and compassion.