

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2022-2024



Metropolis of Atlanta
Irene Politis
November 2023

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, members of the National Executive Board and Fellow National Board Members

Greetings from the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos Chapters!

The Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos is comprised of 64 Chapters with around 3,000 members. The states in our Metropolis are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North & South Carolina, 1 Chapter in Louisiana, 1 Chapter in Mississippi & 2 in Tennessee.

Elections were held in May, and at this time, 55 of our Chapters have been ratified. Several Chapters have small memberships but have big hearts and do their best to fulfill their National and Metropolis commitments and be involved in community charities.

The Metropolis Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos conference was held in Tarpon Springs, Florida, on June 21-25, 2023. The conference theme was “One Body, One Family, One Faith.” There were 67 registered delegates for Philoptochos. The meetings involved voting and approving the 2024-2025 budget, committee reports, and workshops on Treasury, Membership, and Philanthropy. We also had guest speakers Father Anthony Salzman from OCF, Polly Hillier from St. Photios Shrine, Metropolis Youth Director Monica Gjerdge, Helen Carlos talked about Hellenic College Holy Cross, and John Long, a local who spoke to us about domestic violence. At the Philoptochos luncheon that was attended by all the conference delegates, two speakers talked about their experiences with human trafficking. We also packed dried food for an organization, Hunger Fights. It amounted to 15,000 meals!

We had an open forum at one of our meetings, and all the delegates participated. They shared ideas about fundraising and events in their Chapters.

His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios appointed the Metropolis Board, which included two new members.

Chapters are encouraged to continue participating in “Feeding the Hungry” and “Operation Classroom” and fulfilling their Metropolis and National commitments. Our Metropolis has a very informative website where information is posted regularly. A monthly newsletter is sent to all the Presidents to share with their members.

The Philanthropy Committee is very strong in offering assistance for hurricane relief, funeral expenses, house repairs, etc. We are fortunate to be able to help in many ways! A \$1,000 donation was sent from our Board to the Maui Wildfire Relief Fund.

The AGAPE Luncheon held in Raleigh, North Carolina, on September 16th was a big success. Co-chairman Lekita Essa and Sydney Langford and their Chapter did an amazing job planning this event. One hundred forty-eight people attended, and they raised \$24,050! The guest speaker was His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, Primate of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America. The presentation was, "My dear Sisters, let's be real and Orthodox in our increasingly Pagan society." The money that was raised will benefit education and youth programs in the life and growth of our Metropolis.

The National Philoptochos Executive Board granted \$18,285 to support the Care Cradle Program at Atrium Health in Charlotte, NC. These funds came from the 2021 Children's Medical Fund. These cradles are designed to provide comfort and solace to families who have recently lost a child by giving them a little extra time with their baby.

Our Metropolis Board meeting will be held on Zoom on November 18th.

I thank His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and our spiritual advisor, Father Michael Platanis, for their support, love, and spiritual guidance to our Philoptochos Chapters.

The Philoptochos members in our Metropolis are committed to fulfilling the mission of Philoptochos. May God bless us all!

Faithfully,



Irene Politis

Metropolis of Atlanta President