

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2023



Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos

Athena Kalyvas, President

May 2023

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras, National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, and Sisters of the National Philoptochos Board,

It is with great pleasure that I bring you greetings from the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Board and the 42 Chapters from the Parishes spanning across six New England states including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Metropolis Ministries

The Chapters continue to support the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos ministries including Social Services, the Philoxenia House, the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center, the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS), the VA Operation Housewarming program, Hellenic College/Holy Cross, Project Bread, the Pine Street Inn, as well as the Hellenic Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center/Canton, Massachusetts and Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center/Worcester, Massachusetts.

The pandemic has altered many aspects of our lives, including the regular face-to-face meeting format of the Philoptochos organization, especially community outreach and fundraising efforts. However, we continue supporting the following Metropolis Outreach programs:

Feed the Hungry

- At the outbreak of the pandemic and under the guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, we launched the Feed the Hungry Initiative to provide immediate assistance to those in need and donated over \$40,000.00 to various food pantries and homeless shelters in the New England area.
- For the past several years, the Metropolis of Boston has prepared over 500 Thanksgiving baskets for distribution through the Home for Little Wanderers. The Metropolis Philoptochos participates and donates monies for the produce included in those baskets.
- The Metropolis Philoptochos Board provided financial assistance to 15 community college food pantries throughout the New England area. The donations made an impact to many students who rely on these facilities while attending school.

Operation Housewarming- Transitioning Homeless Veterans

Since 2012 and with the overwhelming support and generosity of the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Chapters and Parishes, we donated over 5,000 Housewarming Baskets to veterans transitioning to independent living as well as homeless women and veterans with children.

Operation Classroom

The Metropolis Philoptochos Board has encouraged all the Chapters to initiate Operation Classroom programs in their local communities and the response was well received.

Monthly Chapter Presidents Calls

The Metropolis of Boston Board schedules monthly zoom calls to discuss whatever is on the minds of the Chapter Presidents. Typically, the discussions focus on *How to Increase Your Chapter Membership*, specifically developing strategies on how to increase membership in our Chapters. Chapter Presidents and Members share information on what works in their respective Chapters. Since January, the topic of interest has been the 2023 election of the board and officers. The Chapter Presidents needed clarity on election procedures. The overall response has been very well received.

Fundraisers

After three years following the pandemic, the Metropolis Philoptochos Board hosted the first in-person fundraiser with well-known Greek American author, Yvette Manassis Corporan who presented her latest book, *Where the Wandering Ends* on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Over 100 women attended the luncheon at the Saint Demetrios Church in Weston, Massachusetts and the event raised over \$23,000.00 for the Metropolis Philoptochos ministries. Instead of flowers, we created a tower of non-perishable food items as centerpieces which were donated to the Bristol Lodge, a homeless shelter in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Cookbook

We have been working very diligently in compiling over 100 recipes provided by members of the Metropolis Chapters. More details to follow.

Ukraine Relief Fund – IOCC

Our Metropolis Chapters, both large and small, responded to a request from the National Philoptochos regarding the Ukraine Relief Fund by raising over \$23,000.00. We tracked the generous monies that the Chapters sent to assist the people of Ukraine.

National Convention – July 2022

Approximately 20 members from the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos attended the National Convention in New York. We congratulate the Woburn Philoptochos Chapter led by President, Olympia Frazier for receiving the Agape Award from our Metropolis.

Biennial Conference, Saturday, October 28, 2023

In conjunction with the Metropolis of Boston Clergy-Laity Meeting, the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos will host the Biennial Conference on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the Saint Demetrios Church in Weston, Massachusetts. Elections for the 2023-2025 Metropolis Philoptochos Board will take place.

I would like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios and Chancellor Father Theodore Barbas for their continued support and guidance as we continue to promote the mission of Philoptochos. We are very blessed to have so many talented Philoptochos members to carry forward both the existing and future ministries, continuing the generational works of our mothers and grandmothers.

With love in the Lord,



Athena Kalyvas, President
Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos