

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.**  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2023**



Committee Name: Family and Society (OCF, OVC, YAL)

Co- Chairs: Alexis Limberakis and Stella Piches

Committee Members: Irene Arsoniadis, Stacia Counelis, Theone Dickos, Rita Howell, Helen Primbas, Joyce Spanakis, Christine Zeppos

Date of Report: November 10, 2023

The Family and Society Committee has been updated on the three ministries under the umbrella of F&S: Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), Orthodox Volunteer Corp (OVC), and Young Adult League (YAL/y2am) and how Philoptochos can assist them in their mission.

Co-chairs Alexis and Stella have been in communication with the directors of the three ministries: OCF Director Deacon Marek Simon, OVC Chief Operating Officer Kyra Limberakis, and Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director Eva Konstantakos. The recent communications were a request for an update on the progress of established programs, events, and activities of their respective ministries. All three directors submitted comprehensive reports, and we were impressed with and excited by what we learned. Many of their visions and goals presented to us when we met on Zoom a few short months ago were achieved and were highly successful. Their recent reports to us on their respective ministries were informative and impactful and gave the committee insight into the continuing work being done for our Orthodox youth and young adults. Most importantly, we learned how Philoptochos has supported their current work and how we have helped them realize their goals and vision. Those included financial support, promoting the ministries, and increasing their visibility. All ministries expressed gratitude for Philoptochos' support and asked for our continued prayers.

A grant proposal by OCF to fund its Summer Leadership Institute was presented by the committee to the National Board at its May meeting in Detroit. The amount of the grant request was \$35,000. The committee had unanimously agreed the grant request should be moved forward and presented to the grants committee for approval. The National Grants Committee approved \$25,000. From Donna Levas, OCF Advancement Manager, in her September 22, 2023, report: "OCF utilized \$25,000. awarded grant to assist in providing college students with leadership training. From August 7-10, 2023, the new OCF Student Leadership Board (SLB) came together to train for the upcoming school year. Immediately following, other college students joined these students for the OCF Summer Leadership Institute (SLI), which ran from August 10-13, 2023. At SLI 2023, a total of 36 college students from across the United States gathered and learned about what it means to be an Orthodox leader in OCF, the Church, and the world."

OVC COO Kyra Limberakis submitted a formal grant request to National on August 8, 2023. The grant request is to support the programming costs of three retreats for the full-time Corps Members that are central to the mission. The retreats are August, 2023, January and June 2024. OVC is requesting support for the cost of these retreats in the amount of \$15,000. The status of the grant request is pending. Following is a brief update on OVC from Ms. Limberakis: We have begun our second year of programming with our second full-time cohort and launched our new part-time

program, “OVC Reach,” which has over 20 young adults participating. I am also laying the groundwork for OVC to expand to Boston in the fall of 2024. We opened applications for our 2024-25 program. Since we are expanding to Boston next year, we are doubling down on our recruitment efforts this fall to get even more applicants than we have in the past. We would be grateful for any way the Family and Society Committee might be willing to help spread the word about applications to your parish communities, young adults, networks, etc. You can also submit nominations for young adults who would fit the program well.”

Y2AM National Director Eva Konstantakos’ report reviewed the mission, schedule of events, Team Development/Organization, Content Creation and Resource Development, Vision for Organizational Structure, Effective Christian Ministry Training Program, and the Establishment of a National YAL Committee and 2024 National YAL Conference in San Diego in July 2024.

Full reports from the above ministries are available upon request.

The Family and Society Committee asked that OCM (Orthodox Campus Ministry) be removed from the list of ministries under F&S, as OCM no longer exists. It was absorbed by OCF many years ago.

Recommendations by the Committee that we continue to put forward:

- 1) All National Board Members should be on the list of OCF, OVC, and YAL to receive information and updates on their work and progress. By being informed, National Board Members can assist with disseminating that information to their chapters, Metropolises, and others interested in the ministries. Spread the word!
- 2) The three ministry directors should be invited to do their presentations for the entire National Board. These dedicated youth workers are devout Orthodox Christians who are passionate about their work. They pray their efforts will make an impact on the lives of young people and that their work will not only help the Church to survive but to thrive!
- 3) Question to consider: Does the committee’s name “Family and Society” clearly describe/identify the focus of our work?