

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



Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos

Irene Politis, President

July 2024

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, 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!

First of all, I would like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President & Convention Chair Jeannie Ranglas, and Co-Chairs Anita Kartalopoulos, Cindy Kezos & Valine Georgeson for planning the 2024 National Philoptochos Convention. We are looking forward to coming together with our Philoptochos sisters and sharing our ideas.

The Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos is comprised of 64 Chapters with around 3,200 members. There are several small chapters but they work very hard to fulfill the mission of Philoptochos by collecting food and clothing to help children in underprivileged schools. Many Philoptochos members visit shut-ins, assemble IOCC hygiene kits and service the basic needs of their local communities. Every chapter makes an effort to be involved in the National projects “Operation Classroom” and “Feed the Hungry.” When our Philoptochos sisters see a need, they quickly act. Our Metropolis has a very active website. A monthly newsletter is sent to all the presidents with National and Metropolis information. Vasilopita celebrations were held in January to support Saint Basil Academy. In February, membership teas or luncheons were held to recruit new members. All chapters are encouraged to grow their membership and invite all the women in their parish 18 & over to join Philoptochos.

In March of 2023, the annual Lenten Spiritual retreat was held virtually. Father Gregory Georgiou was our presenter, and the topic was “The Role of Women in the Greek Orthodox Church.” Several women joined in on the Zoom presentation.

Our Metropolis Philoptochos supports the seminarians attending Holy Cross and students at Hellenic College with some scholarship money and a monetary gift at Christmas. On Sunday, May 14, 2023 an AGAPE Luncheon was held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Annunciation Cathedral. This luncheon, chaired by Helen Carlos, was to honor all Philoptochos women and to support our Metropolis of Atlanta Hellenic College Holy Cross students. It was a huge success, and we hope to continue this in the future.

The Metropolis Clergy-Laity and the Philoptochos conference was held in Tarpon Springs, Florida on June 21-25, 2023. The theme of the conference was “One Faith, One Body, One Family.”

Workshops were held on Treasury, Membership and Philanthropy. There were guest speakers on domestic violence and human trafficking. Delegates shared information about fundraising ideas from their chapters.

The AGAPE Luncheon took place in Raleigh, North Carolina on September 16, 2023. The guest speaker was His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa. The presentation was “My dear Sisters, Let’s be Real and Orthodox in our increasingly Pagan Society.” This event benefited education and youth programs in the life and growth of our Metropolis. A check for \$24,050 was sent to the Metropolis.

The 18th Annual Spiritual Retreat was held at our beautiful Diakonia Retreat Center on March 15th-17th, 2024. The theme was “Our Journey with Christ Through Lent and Holy Week.” The presenter was Archon Gerry Clonaris. The Metropolis Board meeting was held prior to the retreat.

During this time period, the Philanthropy committee led by Metropolis Board members Pres. Evi Kaplanis and Tina Chagaris worked very efficiently to help with the hurricane devastations and other requests, such as funeral expenses, rents, medical expenses, etc.

At the Clergy-Laity this summer our Metropolis will present a resolution on Orthodox Prison Ministry which we hope will be supported by all the Metropolises.

Our Metropolis was chosen to host the 20th Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon, which will take place in Atlanta, Georgia on September 27, 2025. All Chapters and parishes are asked to save the date. Plans are underway!

We are fortunate to work under the Spiritual guidance and leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, His Grace Bishop Sevastianos, the Very Rev. George Tsahakis, Chancellor of the Atlanta Metropolis and the Spiritual advisor to our Board, Father Michael Platanis. We thank them for their love and support.

In His Service,



Irene Politis, President