

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



Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos

Debbie George

July 2024

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Your Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, National President Arlene Siaveles Kehl, sisters of the National Board and fellow delegates,

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His mercy endures forever.” ~1 Chron 16:33

Greetings from the Metropolis of Detroit! I can think of no better Convention theme than “Inspiring Women, Impacting the World” as this is what we always strive to do as a sisterhood within our Metropolis, on the National Philoptochos level and globally. I believe that when we are together in conversation and in community, we are indeed better together in every way. Yes, we are an Army of Agape!

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos thanks Philoptochos Convention Chair, Jeannie Ranglas, and Co-Chairs Anita Kartalopoulos, Cindy Kezos and Valine Georgeson for months of planning a creative and innovative program for the delegates. We are grateful that we are able to gather in person in San Diego, and we thank the Metropolis of San Francisco and all those involved for their tireless efforts on behalf of Philoptochos.

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos chapters continue to fulfill the mission of Philoptochos and support all our National Commitments and Programs as well as the Metropolis of Detroit Commitments which are as follows:

Emergency Fund – assists victims of disasters

St. Spyridon Fund – addresses the needs of the Metropolis home and ministries

Scholarship Fund – assists seminarians from the Detroit Metropolis

Summer Camp Fund – supports Metropolis Camps in Michigan, New York and Kentucky

Partners in Philanthropy Fund – assists those needing short-term financial assistance

Each of the 37 chapters in the Metropolis of Detroit has embraced the mission of Philoptochos. The hearts of our members are big and warm. From 2022-2024, our chapters have reached out to their respective communities and been of service in so many different, unique and creative ways by providing meals to the homeless, providing school supplies, coats, and toiletries to impoverished students through the Operation Classroom Initiative, visiting nursing homes, remembering the elderly with cards, gifts and visits, paying hospital bills, funeral costs and stocking food pantries. All outreach was documented, thus enabling members to see the rewards and effectiveness of their hard work and ongoing philanthropy.

The Metropolis of Detroit has been quite busy since the 2022 Convention. Both our traditional Name Day vespers and reception for His Eminence Metropolis Nicholas and the vespers and reception for St. Spyridon were held at the Metropolis and Metropolis Chapel in both December 2022 and 2023. Our Metropolis Board hosts both events that are open to all in the Metropolis.

The Metropolis of Detroit Spring Luncheon ‘Purposeful Philanthropy’ was held on Bright Saturday, April 22, 2023, in Troy, Michigan. It was a beautiful and successful event with a moving presentation by Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh from St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville, Florida. We were honored to have Father Nicholas in our Metropolis and were grateful that he gave our Metropolis Board a private audience during our meeting the day prior to the luncheon. We are thankful for the support received for this biannual fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting the many charities supported by the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos.

In September 2023, our Metropolis of Detroit Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Conference was held in Ann Arbor, MI. The spring and summer planning and implementation helped ensure a successful and educational event for the delegates. Our guest speakers, Presvytera Kerry Pappas (Center for Family Care), Eva Konstantakos (Y2AM), and Rhea Ballas (Youth and Safety Compliance), each represented their respective department within the Archdiocese Departments & Ministries and enlightened us with their informative discussions. We were both blessed and fortunate to have them as part of our Conference. In addition, five new Board members were elected, thus complementing our dynamic Board with women who embrace service to others.

A key event for Spring 2024 was a social media ‘No Show’ fundraiser providing support to Metropolis charities, including but not limited to the benevolence to Metropolis members, Metropolis Summer Camps, Detroit Rescue Mission, American Cancer Society and many more. Through social media, the Metropolis Board sent invitations to ‘Celebrate Veterans, Those Serving in the Armed Forces and First Responders’. Donations were received from chapters and individuals throughout the Metropolis, netting over \$9,500. Each entry was beautifully displayed in an individual post on the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Facebook and Instagram pages.

Our Florence G. Stefanou Memorial Philoptochos Scholarship is offered yearly through the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos and sponsored through the generosity of the Stefanou family. This will be our sixth year awarding this \$1,000 scholarship. The worthy recipient will be announced over the summer.

Looking ahead, we will be hosting “A Weekend with the Louhs” in conjunction with the Metropolis of Detroit Council. Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh and Dr. Roxanne Louh will be with us for a weekend of discussion and reflection, with Friday evening dedicated to the young adults in our Metropolis. Saturday will be open to all those interested. It should prove to be a wonderful and inspiring weekend of learning and fellowship.

Most importantly, we eagerly anticipate the 25th Anniversary Enthronement Celebrations honoring His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit over three weekends in cities throughout our Metropolis. It will be an honor to celebrate our beloved spiritual leader. Axios!

In closing, I sincerely thank His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas for his constant love, guidance and support of all our Metropolis and National Philoptochos ministries. Also, a big thank you to the Metropolis Board for their love, support and dedication to our Metropolis, to the Chapter Presidents for their hard work and commitment, and to all members throughout the Metropolis of Detroit for their dedication and efforts to help those who are less fortunate.

In His Service,

Debbie George

President

Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos