

# 2022 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION



**Marriott Marquis Hotel  
New York, New York**

## **MINUTES Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

The 2022 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention was reconvened by Convention Chair, Anita Kartalopoulos, Esq. at 10:50 AM Eastern on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York, New York.

**Credentials Report** - Convention Chair, Anita Kartalopoulos, announced a quorum has been reached with 316 registered delegates and 262 delegates in attendance.

His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, Spiritual Advisor of Philoptochos, offered the Opening Prayer.

### **Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology – President George Cantonis**

National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl introduced George Cantonis, President of Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology (HCHC). President Cantonis opened his presentation with a video that provided an overview and highlights of Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology that included interviews of students, graduates, supporters and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. The video ended with a strong message – One Faith - One Mission - One School.

President Cantonis provided an update on the progress made at HCHC over the past two years that resulted in the reduction of financial debt, reorganization of the management and academic structure and the successful end of the probation status.

He then thanked Philoptochos for our continued support and involvement. He highlighted the following programs and activities that have benefitted from Philoptochos' financial support:

- \$180,000 to improve campus technology
- \$80,000 to improve WiFi capacity and computer server capacity
- \$50,000 for new Chromebooks for all students
- \$15,000 to software licenses and upgrades
- And \$97,000 to Holy Cross Press

President Cantonis next answered questions from members of the delegation. He once again thanked Philoptochos for their support and looks forward to working with Philoptochos on what needs to be addressed in the future.

**Lunch Break** - Convention Chair, Anita Kartalopoulos, reconvened meeting at 1:29 PM Eastern.

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**Mudgirls Case Study: Women Helping Women: A Partnership of Engagement and Entrepreneurship with Dorrie Papademetriou**

Convention Chair, Anita Kartalopoulos, introduced Dorrie Papademetriou, founder of MudGirls Studios. After a chance encounter with a homeless man, Mrs. Papademetriou thought about how she could help the people who are struggling, who feel discarded, who feel like the forgotten people. She started MudGirls Studios to provide income for women in need, create a product that people will use and give these women an opportunity to be part of a community. Mrs. Papademetriou showed a short story about MudGirls Studios. MudGirls Studios uses clay as a metaphor for life: that lump of clay can be anything you want it to be, just like you can be anything you want to be.

She also announced that a documentary is being made about MudGirls Studios and aired a short trailer titled “Fired Up. The MudGirls Studio Story.”

**Credentials Report** - Convention Chair, Anita Kartalopoulos, announced that there are 317 registered delegates and 265 delegates in the conference room at 2:13 PM Eastern

**Minutes of July 5, 2022** – Convention Secretary, Elaine Sackleh, presented the minutes of July 5, 2022 acknowledging the minor typos. Katherine Kotsis moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Martha Stefanidakis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the delegation.

**Spiritual Reflection** - His Grace Bishop Athenagoras next provided his Spiritual Reflection on “listening.” His Grace stated that we are truly united with God when we listen to each other. His Grace then opened the floor and told the delegates to ask him anything they would like to talk about.

**Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy (PCOP) Video and Update**

Convention Chair, Anita Kartalopoulos, announced that we could not show the video due to a technical problem. Amy Kalogeropoulos, Executive Director, was able to share a few photos of the recent remodeling activities and changes to the PCOP. The rental unit at the PCOP is vacant and will be leased shortly.

The meeting recessed for a refreshment break at 2:53 PM and the delegates were asked to return at 3:05 PM.

**Treasurer’s Report & Audit**

Barbara Pasalis, Treasurer, introduced Joe Albano of Schall and Ashenfarb, LLC to report on the 2020-2021 audit. Mr. Albano informed the delegation that they will issue a “clean, unmodified opinion” of the audit. He stated that for every \$1 donated to a program, 79 cents goes directly to that specific program. This is a very positive statement for non-profit organizations.

Barbara Pasalis provided an overview of the 2020-2021 financial reports. See the “Management Report” for the period ended May 31, 2022. Page 7, Revenue and Expense Charts, provides a visual representation of Revenue by Type and Expense by Type. Barbara Pasalis highlighted that 84% of the revenue comes from contributions and 69% of expenses are issued through grants and awards. The pie chart on Page 14 is incorrect. The correct chart for the first 5 months of 2022 will be included in the July Philoptochos Witness.

Barbara Pasalis directed the delegation to the 2023-2024 proposed Budget on pages 15-17 of the Management Report. The Budget Committee along with input from the Executive Committee and His Grace Bishop Athenagoras, made adjustments in areas of specific need, such as Social Services and HCHC Scholarship Fund. Mrs. Pasalis also highlighted Line 43 – Campaign and

Appeals, Page 16, that will be used to raise funds outside the normal commitment and programs. For example, the “\$90 for 90” Campaign to raise funds for Social Services.

The Membership Report is on Page 18 of the Management Report. It shows a decline in membership over the past two years, from 25,109 in 2019 to 23,641 in 2021. The projected membership over the next two years shows an increase to 25,000 in 2024.

**Updated Credentials Report** – Alexis Limberakis, Credentials Committee, provided an update and stated that there are 288 delegates in the room.

Barbara Pasalis moved to accept the 2023-2024 budget as presented. No second is required. The Delegation approved the motion and the 2023-2024 budget.

National Philoptochos Director Amy Kalogeropoulos introduced the use of our QR code for donations through Push Pay and using this information in conjunction with Church Staq to begin the compilation of a data base of donors. The QR code was supplied in the information that was given to each delegate upon registration. This QR code was set up to contribute to the “\$90 for 90” campaign. This allows you to either set up a recurring gift or a one time gift charged to your credit card.

Amy Kalogeropoulos provided directions and information on this evening’s event at the Metropolitan Museum.

**Closing Prayer** – National President, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, led the delegation in the closing prayer by reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

**Meeting Adjourned**

National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl recessed the meeting at 4:39 PM Eastern.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Cynthia Kezos, Secretary

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Lisa Xanthos, Secretary

July 6, 2022  
Date