

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



Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos

Joyce Spanakis, President

May 2023

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

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Over the past several months since our National Convention in New York, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos sisters have been focused on relationships and rebuilding. Communication within our Metropolis Board and with chapter presidents is stronger than it has been in quite some time. Slowly but surely, we are adding the names and contact information of chapter presidents where there were previously no presidents listed. It's been a busy nine months in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

It is my honor, on behalf of the 37 chapters and the dedicated members of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos to share with you some highlights from the past nine months since the convention:

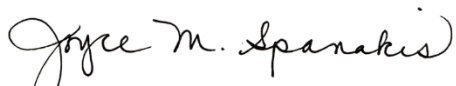
- From our Social Services Fund, we were able to honor requests for assistance such as mortgage payments and funeral expenses.
- From other funds, monies were dispersed to provide the following: honorariums for five Metropolis seminarians, the Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries, IOCC for the Turkey and Syrian Earthquake Relief Fund, the New Metropolis Center Fund, Fr. Matthew Moore for his work with the impoverished in Steubenville, Ohio, sponsorship of the YAL Service Project “Forget Me Not” baskets for families who suffered loss during pregnancy, birth or soon after, support for the East Palestine Relief Fund to help the residents affected by a toxic train accident in Ohio, and support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.
- In September, we held our Metropolis Clergy-Laity meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Our new Metropolis Board was sworn in and Joyce Spanakis was elected to the office of Metropolis President.
- In March, the Metropolis Philoptochos partnered with our Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries for a Weekend of Service. This multi-generational project was held throughout several parishes across the Metropolis. It brought parishioners of all ages together to complete projects which helped the needy in the various areas.

- February was a memorable and invigorating month for our Philoptochos sisters. We united Metropolis Board members and chapter presidents from across the Metropolis for a Team Building retreat at the Double Tree Hotel in Canonsburg, PA. New friendships were made, ideas were shared, and bonds were created as members laughed, cried, hugged, and focused on the mission of Philoptochos.
- Our Annual Daffodil Luncheon was held in person for the first time since 2019 in March. The event raised money for our Metropolis Social Services Fund and our Seminarians Our Future Fund. 225 guests attended the extremely successful luncheon. National Philoptochos President, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, was the guest speaker along with Ron Carleton of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Each guest received a ceramic tea bag holder made by Mud Girls Studios in New Jersey specifically for the luncheon.
- Currently, our Metropolis is in the process of organizing all our committees and chairpersons. Some committees have already met, and others are in the process of scheduling meetings. This is occurring later in the year than originally intended, but our other projects and our relationship building took priority.

Our Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos sisters are committed to the mission of Philoptochos. We are committed to the needs of our chapters, our parishes, our families and to each other. We've strengthened our relationships to establish relationships more effectively with those in our local area, our Metropolis, the United States and the world. The more we keep our focus outward, the greater our ability to spread God's love and be the light of Christ for others.

I would like to thank all the Philoptochos members throughout the Metropolis of Pittsburgh whose hard work, stewardship, time, and talent none of our philanthropic endeavors would be possible. May God continue to bless each of you so that you may continue to be a blessing to others.

In His Service,



Joyce Spanakis, President
Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos