Membership Committee Report

Chair: Stella Piches  
Liaison: Jeannie Ranglas

Members:  
- Despina Denne  
- Sophie Mastor  
- Marianne Stearns  
- Irene Stefanakos  
- Margaret Yates  
- Alexis Limberakis

The membership committee had a conference call in June 2019. During our call, we discussed many old and new ideas to help invigorate membership throughout our wonderful organization of Philoptochos.

After much deliberation and careful thought, we found that people have different ideas as to what “membership” actually means. We found that, even within our own committee, we had different ideas. One can be measured and the other cannot. We will begin by defining membership:

1. Actual members (per capita) that needs to be collected yearly. Keeping track of all that data in an orderly and coherent manner. The numbers. (Measurable)
2. Actually spreading the word and good deeds of Philoptochos to invigorate Chapters and new and old members. The Gift of Philoptochos.

The committee did discuss various concepts and came up with the following which we will implement and send out information to all chapters.

We all reviewed/read the book by Priya Parker, “The Art of Gathering”. We need to spread the Gift of Philoptochos - being passionate, loving, open and inclusive.

Finally, get to know your members. “You cannot build a movement without knowing who is in it!”

Measurable: Keeping Track of Our Members:

- It was made known to me at our Metropolis Conference that not all Chapters have “excel” available to them for use to input their membership data that is required from National.
  - Make available to smaller, technically challenged Chapters – the option to send information to us for us to input into spreadsheet. Then have them reach out to a younger member who can continue this task as membership chair.
- Each committee member would be assigned a Metropolis and they would need to reach out to Chapters that have not sent in their info and inquire if they need any assistance.

Un-measurable: The Gift of Philoptochos

- Personal contact with everyone at Church
- Give members a chance to dream. Ask younger members what they see as important. You would be surprised at some of the responses.
- Back to Basics – do what we do best – help those in need. Remind everyone of the good works of Philoptochos and how we change people’s lives one at a time.
  - Feeding the Hungry
  - Operation Classroom
  - Social Services
  - Disaster Relief when needed
- Finally, we need to gather purposefully – let’s not waste everyone’s time. Time is more valuable today than ever before.
Below is a list of 4 words that alone may mean something to each of us, however, together – they are a movement.

**Family, Fun, Faith, Friendship**

If all those occur with everything we do, membership will follow. We are transforming the way we gather and how we spend our valuable time. The goals that we as a committee wish to accomplish are twofold; information gathering and growth.

Each committee member has been assigned a Metropolis that they will have to reach out to the “membership” chair of each Metropolis. Once this person(s) have been identified, then the task of gathering information begins.

1. **Information Gathering Step(s):**
   a. Inquire how many chapters in that Metropolis
   b. How many members in each Chapter
   c. Have elections been held and have they been ratified?
   d. If they have it, their numbers for the past three years so we can identify any trend that may be occurring.

2. **Growth:**
   a. Use the principles of “Family, Faith, Fun and Friendship” as a guide to grow membership.
   b. Help and/or guide all Chapters to meet purposefully.
   c. Supply them with resources for growth. Use “The Art of Gathering” for guidelines on meeting with a purpose.

Finally, as mentioned previously, do not forget that membership recruitment/retention is not only once a year. It is affected by everything we do and say as PhiLOPTOCHOS members. Let us not forget to be Christians in our thoughts and actions.