

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2018-2020



METROPOLIS OF DENVER

Stella Piches, President

August 22, 2020

It is an honor to extend virtual greetings to all delegates of the 2020 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention from the 13 states of the Metropolis of Denver. Our 33 chapters and over 1,500 members are spread over a vast expanse of the United States, yet we maintain communications and work diligently to further the mission of Philoptochos with love and compassion.

Since our last Biennial Clergy-Laity congress, our country has changed dramatically with COVID-19 and all the civil unrest. Now more than ever, Philoptochos is being called to action. Funds from National Philoptochos and from chapters across the country provided relief to many who were, and may still be, experiencing hardships from COVID-19. The National Philoptochos also provided a grant for those experiencing hunger. The Metropolis of Denver has given food cards to those who are hungry. We have an energized social services committee who responds quickly to all requests.

As a Metropolis, we have met virtually via Zoom over the past few months. Chapters have taken on the task of making face masks and providing much needed love and support to our first responders and medical personnel. Meals have been provided to hospitals and to first responders who are working relentlessly to battle this virus. We have also prayed for the health of all those who are afflicted with this disease.

The Denver Metropolis continues to support seminarians of Holy Cross School of Theology with scholarships and financial aid. Over the past two years, we have awarded close to \$12,000.00 to our Seminarians.

The Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos members remain committed to the mission of Philoptochos. We embrace National Commitments and Programs as well as the following Metropolis endeavors:

- Religious Education
- Youth Endowment
- Mission and Prison Ministries
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship
- Bishop Anthimos Scholarship
- Youth Ministries
- Social Services
- St. John's Woman's Monastery

The ladies of our Metropolis Philoptochos respond to needs whenever and wherever they arise. As the world changes and evolves, we will develop new programs to meet new and unforeseen challenges. Our liaisons work with all 33 chapters throughout the Metropolis to provide National updates, confirm progress on Metropolis goals, answer any questions and address any concerns and to strengthen relationships and promote better lines of communication with the Metropolis and National Philoptochos. We work hard at bridging the distances between our chapters.

With our deepest thanks to our beloved Metropolitan Isaiah, the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos held its biennial conference in June 2019, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Forty-two delegates had an opportunity to participate and interact with each other to share philanthropic ideas and projects and to elect the Metropolis Board for the next two-year term. We launched our new website and had workshops on financial responsibilities, membership, Feeding the Hungry, Saint Basil's Academy and a guest speaker from "Tulsa Day Center" for the Homeless. These workshops allow us the opportunity to work with our chapters to review procedures, concerns and goals. A very informative presentation was made by the director of "Tulsa Day Care", a homeless shelter in Tulsa, Oklahoma which deals with homeless mental health issues and addiction. More than \$3,000 in gift cards were collected from our delegates for the center. We also raised money to benefit our Bishop Anthimos Scholarship Fund.

All chapters in the Metropolis have been busy collecting food items and providing meals in their areas to fulfill the initiative of "Feeding the Hungry" campaign initiated by our National President, Maria Logus. The rewards of this program not only supplied food for those in need but also brought together parishioners and Goyans who partnered with Philoptochos in this very worthy endeavor. Even though times have changed along with our system of delivering food, we still continue this project today.

Our Chapters have been collecting school supplies for the Operation Classroom Initiative. Now more than ever, this worthwhile initiative is needed. Many children may not have any supplies needed to "attend" school in the fall. Classes are being held virtually and many do not have the needed supplies at home. Our Chapters have been busy collecting school supplies for these children.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah, for his spiritual guidance, love and support of Philoptochos. I also extend a special thank you to my Metropolis Board and to our chapters for their support and dedication to the mission of Philoptochos.

Stella Piches, President
Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos