

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
MAY 23, 2023



Operation Classroom Committee

Co-Chairs: Pam Argyris, Joyce Spanakis

Members: Stella Baker, Andrea Feles-Katsimbaris, Diana Gardianos, Joanne Kakoyiannis, Katherine Kotsis, Georgia Sarlas, Irene Stefanakos, Julie Vagelos, Barbara Vittas, Georgia Vlitas, Sharon Whitman, Sofia Zachariadis, Christine Zeppos

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“Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.” – Abraham Lincoln

The mission of Operation Classroom is to assist and offer support to teachers and students in underserved or underfunded schools and provide resources that would not have been available through the local school district.

This past February, the members of the Operation Classroom committee met over Zoom to discuss the purpose and role of the committee, and to establish a timeline for reporting. Co-chairs Pam Argyris, a retired elementary teacher, and Joyce Spanakis, a veteran first grade teacher, drafted a letter and updated the forms that were sent to each Metropolis president and chapter presidents. Information can also be accessed on the National Philoptochos website.

We are urging our Philoptochos chapters to think outside the box when coming up with projects to help underserved students and teachers. We often think of helping students and teachers at the beginning of the school year, but supplies run out and need to be replaced at other times of the year, as well. Perhaps chapters can consider adopting a classroom to support them throughout the entire school year.

The assistance chapters provide need not be limited to school supplies. Students today face a wide variety of challenges ranging from bullying, abuse, and neglect to even homelessness. Sometimes providing extra clothing, hygiene supplies for students, and backpacks filled with non-perishable food items can make a difference in the life of a child.

It is our hope that more chapters across the country will take part in this vital ministry. Our children are our future. Let’s embrace them and nurture them with the agape of the Philoptochos.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Argyris and Joyce Spanakis, Co-Chairs