

2022 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION



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

**MINUTES
Thursday, July 7, 2022**

The Convention was called to order by Anita Kartalopoulos, Esq., Convention Chair, at 9:12 am.

Spiritual Reflection: His Grace Bishop Athenagoras

Love is an inexhaustible ocean with no limit. It transcends ego. It opens a way for our return to heaven. Christ is the only way to God. Christ brought the sacrificial spirit of love to Earth.

Love of a Mother – Natural love. Unconditional love, every child’s first safe space. Christ said “Behold your Mother” to the Apostles. Mary became the Mother of the Apostles and the Mother of the Church.

Bishop Athenagoras shared with us that No Priesthood on earth can be compared to Motherhood. The fruit of the womb brings salvation.

Credentials Committee Report

Registered Delegates: 306

Delegates in Attendance: 270

Observers registered: 12

Minutes of July 6, 2022

The minutes of July 6, 2022 were presented by Cindy Kezos. She made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Cantos. The motion passed unanimously.

Anita Kartalopoulos thanked us for our discussions yesterday and dialogues with regards to the resolutions. Everyone’s ideas and suggestions are important.

Barbara Pasalis, National Treasurer, reported that the \$90 for 90 Campaign had raised \$2,555.00 for Social Services, after yesterday’s presentation of the new app by Philoptochos Director Amy Kalogeropoulos.

**Social Services Spotlight: Co-Chairs Eleni Constantinides and Stella Pantelidis, Director Paulette Geanacopoulos
Presenters: Lisa Xanthos, Kathy Siavelis**

Anita Kartalopoulos opened the presentation stating that “The beating heart of Philoptochos is Social Services.”

Co-Chair Eleni Constantinides introduced the Social Services Committee, and quoted Hebrews 13:7. She spoke about the importance of confidentiality and privacy. Eleni’s hope was that this presentation would provide us the guidance and tools we need on a local level to run our chapter’s social services. She referred to the Event App for two documents that we can use as reference tools.

Eleni introduced Paulette Geanacopoulos, Director of Social Services for National Philoptochos, who led the discussion and introduced the panelists who referenced case studies in their respective Metropolises.

Three case studies were presented. Time was then given to ask questions of the panelists with regard to the handling of the respective cases.

The overall takeaways were as follow:

- Understanding and listening to your clients
- Coordinating local resources available
- Prioritizing and determining whether we can take on the case

Recommendations were made: determine if clients are eligible for public benefits and job training programs and offer assistance for visiting government offices, and help with their families while the clients take the time required to work through the application process.

It is important to be careful that the solution we provide is not counted as income and that we do not do anything to delay their eligibility for public assistance. Also, it is important to note that Philoptochos cannot contribute to any funding accounts such as GoFundMe pages.

A survey was sent to the Philoptochos Chapters requesting information on the individual Chapter's Social Service contributions. 40% of 437 chapters reported on their social services activities in response to the survey. In 2020-2022, \$2.3 million was given in assistance by Philoptochos on all levels throughout the country. Stella Pantelidis reported on the need for transparency and accountability.

Blessing Bag Activity – We assembled 400 Blessing Bags for the homeless. The activity was sponsored by the Metropolis of San Francisco. Bishop Athenagoras blessed the bags which were then disbursed to chapters in the Direct Archdiocesan District and the Metropolis of New Jersey for distribution.

Beverage Break at 10:45 am
Reconvened at 11:05 am

Featured Speaker: Sarah Sladek – Membership Engagement

The Membership is changing as we know it due to the following influences:

- Financial upheaval leading to unstable economy
- Technology advances – more information faster than ever
- Demographic shift

How do we remain relevant in the midst of such tremendous change?

Ms. Sladek broke up the population into generational groups:

- Baby boomers 1946-1964
- Generation X 1965-1981
- Gen Y/Millennials 1982-1995
- Generation Z 1996-2009

After much discussion, it was determined that the Path to Growth should include the following:

- What do members need to succeed?
- What is needed to create “must have” membership?
- What amazing work are we doing that few people know about?
- What strategies should we use to engage new members and build an inclusive community?
- Why is change needed and why now? What benefits do we stand to gain?

She advised that we know what we are leaving behind as a legacy and what we are building for the future. The full presentation will be available to Philoptochos members on the website for chapter use.

Break for Lunch at 12:37 pm

Reconvened at 2:00 pm

Bishop Athenagoras announced that the Centennial Album deadline has been extended until August 1, 2022. It will feature a special section for Philoptochos through the years. All chapters are strongly encouraged to participate in sponsorship.

Chapter Challenges and Awards

Chapter Challenges

The Chapter Challenges presented were originally to have been presented at the 2020 Convention, but due to COVID, were postponed until now. The following Chapters were represented:

- Direct Archdiocesan District: #0060 St. Nicholas Shrine Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Flushing, New York;
- Metropolis of New Jersey: #1023 St. Irene Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill, New Jersey;
- Metropolis of Chicago: #2019 SS. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Glenview, Illinois;
- Metropolis of Boston: #3015 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Boston, Massachusetts;
- Metropolis of San Francisco: #4012 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Northridge, California;
- Metropolis of Atlanta: # 5046 St Nektarios Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Charlotte, North Carolina;
- Metropolis of Pittsburgh: #6003 Melissa Ladies Philoptochos Society of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, Ohio;
- Metropolis of Detroit: #7025 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Sterling Heights, Michigan;
- Metropolis of Denver: #8033 St. Barbara Ladies Philoptochos Society of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Dallas, Texas

Chapter Awards:

Excellence in Legacy: National Awards Program – 100% Commitment

Each chapter that has fulfilled 100% of their 2021 Commitments was listed on a PowerPoint presentation. Chapters will receive a Certificate. These have been delivered to the Metropolis Presidents to be distributed to the Chapters.

Excellence in Renewal: National Awards Program Growth in Membership

Membership Awards:

Chapters with fewer than 20 members:

2nd Place: Chapter 2036 – St. Andrew, South Bend, Indiana. Increase from 13 to 30 Members (231%)

1st Place: Chapter 7038 – St. Nicholas, Jamestown, New York. Increase from 14 to 33 Members (236%)

Chapters with 21-49 Members:

2nd Place: Chapter 3046 – St. Spyridon, Worcester, Massachusetts. Increase from 39 to 98 members (251%)

1st Place: Chapter 5064 – St. Katherine, Naples, Florida. Increase from 29 members to 89 members (307%)

Chapters with 50-99 Members:

2nd Place: Chapter 4028 – Nativity of Christ, Ignacio, California. Increase from 86 to 141 members (164%)

1st Place – Chapter 1016 – Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore, Maryland. Increase from 80 to 157 members (196%)

Chapters with 100 to 199 Members:

2nd Place: Chapter 8049 – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Salt Lake City, Utah. Increase from 106 to 144 Members (136%)

1st Place: Chapter 4047 – St. Demetrios, Seattle, Washington. Increase from 121 to 171 members (141%)

Chapters with 200 or more Members:

2nd Place: Chapter 0060 – St. Nicholas, Flushing, New York. Increase from 213 to 233 Members (105%)

1st Place: Chapters 1034 – St. John the Theologian Cathedral, Tenafly, New Jersey. Increase from 201 to 221 Members (110%)

Excellence in Unity: National Awards Program Combined Ministry Project

3rd Place: Metropolis of San Francisco, Chapter 4099, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Philoptochos, Long Beach, California. Project: One Team United in Faith & Fellowship

2nd Place: Metropolis of New Jersey, Chapter 1016, Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore, Maryland. Project: Weekend Backpack for Kids Program

1st Place: Metropolis of Chicago, Chapter 2015, St. John the Baptist Philoptochos, Des Plaines, Illinois. Project: Parish Family as our Foundation

90th Anniversary Retrospective & 90th Anniversary Celebration

Video tribute was shown and the 90th year pin was distributed to all registered delegates.

Children’s Medical Fund 2021 Wrap up - Theone Dickos, 2021 Chair

The Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon was hosted by the Metropolis of Detroit in Indianapolis, IN on November 6, 2021. A record sponsorship of \$505,320 was raised. There was \$69,000 in raffle sales and \$272,000 grants were awarded. The Children’s Medical Fund since its inception has raised over \$4.3 million.

Children’s Medical Fund 2023 Houston - Barbara Vittas, Martha Stefanidakis, Marian Catechis, Tri-Chairs

Save the Date – The next Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon will be hosted by the Metropolis of Denver in Houston, Texas on November 11, 2023. Martha Stefanidakis offered a few details, including the hotel, JW Marriott/Galleria (rate \$189) and that an evening event will be held at the Health & Science Museum (a Smithsonian affiliate).

Credentials Update: Delegates in attendance: 253

Disbursements - Barbara Pasalis, Treasurer

The following disbursements were vetted and approved by the Project Review Committee and then approved by the Executive Board. We now bring them to the floor of the convention for the delegates’ final approval.

The Funding requests come from 4 funds with the following balances as of 5/31/22:

1. 2021 CMF, #32020 \$ 1,313
2. Prior Year CMF, #32025 \$406,345
3. Autism, #31040 \$116,514
4. 75th Founders, #31110 \$ 39,215

Methodist LeBonheur Community Outreach, Memphis, TN (Metropolis of Detroit)

- Their mission is to build a coordinated, integrated community practice that will provide equal access to high quality care through engagement, education, prevention and intervention to improve the health of children and families
- More than half the families have annual incomes below \$15,000; 89% are below \$30,000
- **The Family Resilience Initiative** assesses children from 9 months to 5 years across social determinants of adverse childhood experiences
- \$15,000 request will fund:
 - \$25 Kroger Gift Card once a month for 20 families (\$6,000)
 - Rent and utilities assistance for 20 families for 20 families (\$6,000)
 - Transportation via Lyft to doctor appointments for 1 year (\$3,000)

Committee Recommendation: \$1,313.00 from 2021 CMF Fund, #32020 to close out the fund; and \$13,687 from Prior Year CMF Fund, #32025

Almost Home Kids, Naperville, IL (Metropolis of Chicago)

- Their mission is to provide a bridge from hospital to home for children with medical complexities by educating and training families with the skills needed to care for their children at home
- Serves children from infant to 21 years of age from families at or below the poverty line, and 10% are homeless
- Children suffer from: premature birth, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, traumatic brain injury
- 60% have a tracheostomy and most require a feeding tube
- Funding will provide a **De-Escalation Program** to enhance the staff's skills to manage tense situations within families
- \$19,200 will fund SIM Lab costs for 32 employees at \$600 each

Committee Recommendation: \$19,200 from Prior Year CMF Fund, #32025

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, Youngstown, OH (Metropolis of Pittsburgh)

- Serve a diverse population from all faiths, helping thousands every year
- The Early Learning Program serves children from 6 months to Pre-K, from predominantly low-income households
- Program includes motor skill development, social-emotional learning, water safety and fitness classes, and will support 34 children
- Funding Request: \$5,000 for supplies for the swimming classes

Committee Recommendation: \$5,000 from Prior Year CMF Fund, #32025

The Arc of Chester County, West Chester, PA (Metropolis of Detroit)

- Their mission is to advocate, educate, and provide services to empower individuals with disabilities and their families
- Serves all ages of people with developmental disabilities and delays
- **The Children's Early Learning Services/Program (CELS/P)** will focus on children from infancy to age 5 and will provide:
 - home-based specialized services
 - an onsite pre-school for children both with and without disabilities to promote an inclusive environment
 - Toddler program providing 2-year-old students with a structured and inclusive classroom
- Funding will provide Technology Devices to be used in CELS/P to upgrade ten devices at a cost of \$2,395 per laptop for a total of \$23,950; this will allow 24 staff interventionists to provide services related to evaluation, development and progress

Committee Recommendation: \$23,950 from Autism Fund, #31040

Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, Inc. (CHKD), Norfolk, VA (Metropolis of NJ)

- Mission is Health, Healing and Hope for all children

- Serve SE Virginia, the eastern shore of Virginia and NE North Carolina
- Provide services to 220,000 children from families, 60% of which are underserved
- The **Commercial Exploitation of Children at the Child Advocacy Center** has expert in child abuse and neglect, including services to children who have been trafficked
- Funding requested is \$25,000: \$15,000 for personnel, \$6,000 for food, clothing and hygiene products, and \$4,000 for training

Committee Recommendation: \$10,000: \$6,000 for food, clothes and hygiene products and \$4,000 for training \$10,000 from Prior Year CMF, #32025

Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, d/b/a Eastern Orthodox Management Corporation, Worcester, MA (Metropolis of Boston)

- Their mission is to protect and care for the well-being and dignity of the most vulnerable
- One of two nursing home/rehabilitation centers in the Metropolis of Boston
- Funding request of \$22,829 will pay for 38 sets of furniture for the renovated wing

Committee Recommendation: \$22,829 to pay for 38 sets of furniture from 75th Anniversary Founders Fund, #31110

Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Honolulu, HI (Metropolis of San Francisco)

- Dedicated to providing care for Hawaii's women and children for 125 years
- Only maternity, newborn, and pediatric specialty hospital in Hawaii
- 2500 miles away from the nearest full-service children's hospital
- Recently completed the addition of a Pediatric Heart Center
- Heart disease is the most common birth defect in the US -200 cases/year in HI
- Funding Request of \$48,000 to purchase an EKG for the new center

Committee Recommendation: \$48,000 from Prior Year CMF Fund, #32025

Foundation for Morristown Medical (Metropolis of New Jersey)

- Their mission is to inspire community philanthropy to advance exceptional health care for their patients at Morristown Medical Center and Goryeb Children's Hospital of Morristown, New Jersey
- To expand the medical center's programs and services in patient care, clinical research, medical and public health education and preventive medicine
- In 2021, Goryeb Children's Hospital served 3,018 admissions; 803 NICU admissions; 29,442 ER visits; 135,352 outpatient visits
- The grant will assist in the expansion of the **Gagnon Children's Emergency Department**, part of a comprehensive ED expansion and modernization
- The pediatric ED will include a space for child behavioral health needs
- Funding Request of \$20,000 to support the expansion of the pediatric ED and enable them to serve the behavioral health needs of the most vulnerable children

Committee Recommendation: \$20,000 from Prior Year CMF Fund, #32025

If all grants are approved per the recommendations, the remaining balances in the funds will be:

1. 2021 CMF, #32020	\$ 0
2. Prior Year CMF, #32025	\$290,458
3. Autism, #31040	\$ 92,564
4. 75 th Founders, #31110	\$ 16,386

After presenting each recommendation, Mrs. Pasalis made a motion to fund each disbursement. All motions were passed unanimously.

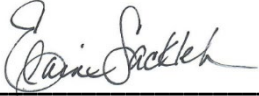
Convention Wrap up

Jeannie Ranglas presented a gift to the National Philoptochos President, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, on behalf of the Executive Board.

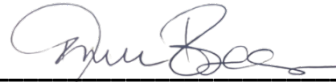
Chair of the Convention Anita Kartalopoulos thanked the attendees and committees for their collaboration as Philoptochos continues to be “an army on the march” with 9 Metropolises, 437 chapters, 25,000 members and growing.

President Arlene Siavelis Kehl gave closing remarks.
A Closing Prayer was offered by His Grace Athenagoras of Nazianzos.

The Convention was adjourned at 5:15 pm



Elaine Sackleh
Convention Secretary



Thea Portelos
Convention Secretary