

## 2024 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION



**Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina  
San Diego, California**

**MINUTES  
Thursday, July 4, 2024**

The 2024 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention was reconvened by Cindy Kezos, Convention Co-Chair, at 9:07 am PDT on Thursday, July 4, 2024 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, California.

**Opening Prayer and Spiritual Reflection-** Jeannie Ranglas led the delegation in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

### **Chapter Challenge Part 2-**

Holy Trinity Philoptochos, Fort Wayne, IN, Metropolis of Detroit

- Adopted a local school supported by a shoe drive, hat and glove drive, Christmas drive, and food drive; also donated school equipment

St. Katherine Philoptochos, Falls Church, VA, Metropolis of New Jersey

- Supported the Homestretch organization which empowers families in crisis to rebuild their lives via donations, a shoe drive, Thanksgiving meals, and Christmas Luncheon

St. Xenia Philoptochos, Sts. Constantine & Helen, Reading, PA, Metropolis of Pittsburgh

- Via donations, supported The LightHouse Women and Children's Center, a newly built facility

St. John the Baptist Philoptochos, Anaheim, CA, Metropolis of San Francisco

- Via donations, supplies, and community partnerships, assisted Higher Ground Youth and Family Services in Anaheim, CA for at-risk youth

**Spiritual Reflection-** His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos - His Grace discussed:

- Psalm 15 - calls us to a higher standard of living, and stresses the importance of our intentions and actions
- St. John Chrysostom- *"He who walks uprightly and works righteousness will be near to God and will dwell in His tabernacle. For it is not only faith, but also a righteous life that brings us closer to God."*
- St. Gavrilia (Papayannis)- *"The soul that is united with God is naturally full of love, peace, and righteousness. It reflects God's light in the world through its actions and truthfulness."*

**Report of Credentials Committee-** Chrissie Zeppos, Metropolis of San Francisco, presented as follows:

323 Registered Delegates

250 Delegates in Attendance

239 Voting Delegates

11 Observers

**Manual and Handbook Update-** Anita Kartalopoulos, National 1st Vice President, Debbie George, Metropolis of Detroit President, and Elaine Zetes, Metropolis of Boston Anita raised the need to have readily available manuals and handbooks, which will be referenced in the bylaws. To be finalized and posted online later this year:

- The Procedural Manual
- The Financial Policies and Procedures Manual
- The Social Services Policies and Procedures Manual
- The Protocol Manual
- The Employee Handbook

**Joint Diakonia Project with YAL-** Eve Marie Kailas, Vice Chairman of YAL Convention

- Eve thanked Philoptochos for their support of the 2 organizations we are assisting today.
- One of the key pillars of YAL is the Diakonia project. For the last 6 years, the Philoptochos Metropolis of San Francisco and YAL have worked together with 5 different organizations.
- Cassiani Kateyiannis from YAL spoke about the two organizations from San Diego that the Diakonia project will be benefiting from: Your Safe Place (human trafficking support group) and The San Diego Rescue Mission (aids the homeless).

- Katherine Siavelis, Metropolis of Chicago, mentioned that Philoptochos is very concerned about human trafficking. She also mentioned that Philoptochos paid for the supplies and YAL shopped - a true collaborative effort.
- His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira & Great Britain discussed the importance of volunteerism and we have failed as Christians if we do not help those in need.
- His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros expressed his delight regarding the joint Philoptochos and YAL Diakonia project. This is truly a synergy of compassion and in Christ we are one. The concrete action of assembling 1,500 care packages together is a true show of faith.
- His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia spoke about the importance of being an inclusive Church and embracing the young. A healthy Church is a young Church with many ministries.

**Lunch**- Cindy Kezos announced lunch at 11:53 AM.

**Plenary for Doxology & Arlene's Report**- The Philoptochos Convention attended the Plenary session for President Arlene Siavelis Kehl's report to the Clergy-Laity Congress.

The session was reconvened by Cindy Kezos, Convention Co-Chair, at 2:30 pm.

**Minutes Report, Tuesday, July 2, 2024**- Elaine Sackleh, Metropolis of New Jersey, presented the minutes of July 2, 2024. Elaine Zetes moved to waive the reading of the minutes, Irene Politis, Metropolis of Atlanta President, seconded. Anita Kartalopoulos, National 1st Vice President, moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Fifi Nichols, Metropolis of New Jersey, seconded the motion with typographical errors noticed. Minutes approved.

**Minutes Report, Wednesday, July 3, 2024**- Chrissy Orginos-Zografos, Archdiocesan District, presented the minutes of July 3, 2024. Stephanie Cha, Metropolis of Denver, moved to waive the reading of the minutes. Genie Kontos, Metropolis of San Francisco, seconded. Diane Saphos, Metropolis of New Jersey, moved to accept the minutes as presented. Markella Macrodimitris, Metropolis of San Francisco, seconded. Minutes approved.

**Chapter Awards**- Katherine Connell, Metropolis of San Francisco, presented the following achievements:

**Excellence in Legacy: National Awards Program – 100% Commitment** - Each chapter that has fulfilled 100% of their 2023 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:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Jackson Heights, NY

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Sts. Nicholas, Raphael, Irene Greek Orthodox Church, Cummings, GA

**Chapters with 21-49 Members:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Pawtucket, RI

1<sup>st</sup> Place: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, West Babylon, NY

**Chapters with 50-99 Members:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: St. John Greek Orthodox Church, Sterling Heights, MI

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Modesto, CA

**Chapters with 100 to 199 Members:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Marietta, GA

1<sup>st</sup> Place: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL

**Chapters with 200 or more Members:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Archdiocesan Cathedral Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, New York, NY

**Excellence in Unity: National Awards Program Combined Ministry Project**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Project: Church of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Elkins Park, PA

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Project: St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church, Wheeling, WV

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Project: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Toledo, OH (tie)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Project: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Houston, TX

**Closing Ceremony-** Tribute for Arlene Siavelis Kehl

- Kathleen Katrakis, President Metropolis of Chicago, accompanied by the Chicago delegation sang a song in honor of President Arlene Siavelis Kehl.

- Anita Kartalopoulos, National 1st Vice President, along with the Executive Board and Metropolis Presidents, presented President Arlene Siavelis Kehl a gift in appreciation of all her work for Philoptochos.

**Chairperson Closing-** Jeannie Ranglas, Convention Chair, thanked all attendees for their attendance at the conference and for their commitment for the work of Philoptochos. Cindy Kezos was also acknowledged for serving as Convention Co-Chair.

**President's Closing-** Arlene Siavelis Kehl reflected on the events of the convention. Of special note was the use of the Philoptochos App which was instrumental in keeping the Philoptochos events running smoothly and was embraced by all.

The Convention was adjourned by Jeannie Ranglas, Convention Chair at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Sofianopoulos, Secretary

Judith Din, Secretary

Chrissy Orginos- Zografos, Secretary