

# **METROPOLIS OF DENVER PHILOPTOCHOS MONTHLY NEW TIPS**

January 1, 2009

Dear Philoptochos Chapter Presidents and Vice-Presidents:

Wishing you and yours a very Happy New Year filled with abundant blessings!

Please make copies the Philoptochos News Tips for your members at your next general meeting.

Thank you to Denver, Shreveport and Tulsa for sending me your chapter's news. I look forward to receiving up dates from all of our Metropolis chapters! Ladies if you are unable to contribute information about you chapter's events, fundraiser and projects, please appoint someone from your board to do so. Please e-mail your information to me by the end of the month.

With you in His service,  
Valerie *Ranahosseini*  
Metropolis Board Member  
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## **METROPOLITIAN MINUTE**

God's entrance into this sinful world, in order to return it to its original beauty and purpose, brings joy to our hearts that our omnipotent God, Who is all powerful, expresses His great humility by becoming one of us. If we are to feel His presence in our lives, we must imitate His humility within us, as best we can, toward family, friends, and strangers. - His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah

## **NATIONAL AND METROPOLIS COMMITMENTS FOR JANUARY**

Vasilopita/Saint Basil's Academy – Please note if you are planning a Vasilopita event ALL PROCEEDS must be remitted.

Social Services

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)

## **NATIONAL**

Congratulations to the New 2008-2010 Executive National Board Members.

Spiritual Advisor His Grace Bishop Andonios  
President: Mrs. Aphrodite Skeadas  
First Vice President: Miss Arlene Siavelis  
Second Vice President; Mrs. Maria Stavropoulos  
Third Vice President: Mrs. Kathy Gabriel  
Secretary: Mrs. Elaine Cladis  
Treasurer: Mrs. Joanne Kakoyiannis  
Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Martha Stefanidakis  
Advisor: (Past President) Mrs. Georgia Skeadas  
Metropolis Presidents:  
Archdiocesan District: Mrs. Maria Skiadas  
Metropolis of Chicago: Mrs. Joanne Stavrakas  
Metropolis of Pittsburgh: Mrs. Helen Lagios  
Metropolis of Boston: Mrs. Diane Mimos  
Metropolis of Denver: Ms. Barbara Latsonas  
Metropolis of Atlanta: Mrs. Evan Scurtis  
Metropolis of Detroit: Mrs. Eleni Zaferes  
Metropolis of San Francisco: Mrs. Valerie Roumeliotes  
Metropolis of New Jersey: Mrs. Bessie Drogaris

CHICAGO—The new Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America held the first meeting of its 2008-2010 term Nov. 6-7 in Chicago with his Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presiding. The members of the New Council serve for a two-year term expiring at the next Clergy-Laity Congress in 2010. The Council consists of 128 members of elected and appointed clergy and laity from across the United States.

The work of the full Archdiocesan Council began in the morning of Nov. 7. As customary, the opening session convened jointly with the members of the newly appointed National Philoptochos Board. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios offered a prayer service and he then proceeded with his introductory address to this joint body.

In his address, Archbishop Demetrios acknowledged the unique and special conditions in the country and the world, conditions of war and conflict, strain and anguish created by the world-wide financial crisis and the many ways they affect the faithful and our Church, The Archbishop also acknowledged the Historic election of the new president, only days before, and the fact that the Archdiocesan

Council was coincidentally convening in Chicago in the same hotel the new president-elect was holding his first press conference and meetings across the hall.

Archbishop Demetrios apprised the body of the recent very important meeting in Constantinople, *the synaxis of the primates of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches*, which was convened last by His All holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. He noted in particular “ the clear leadership offered by his All holiness...and the respect and recognition afforded to the Patriarch by all the other Primates.” His Eminence further talked about the various dialogues between the Orthodox and people of other faiths as a means to gain perspective and understanding of where we stand in the world.

Archbishop Demetrios stated that it was of vital importance to deal seriously and act on the theme of the last Clergy-Laity congress “Gather My People to My Home” and intensify efforts to minister to the un-churched and the youth. His Eminence acknowledged there are some things blocking these efforts related to financial setbacks and pressures but insisted they should not hinder the work of the Gospel. He added that in recent days the word “power” dominates the political and financial realms and sees to be defining the lives of people, but we as Orthodox Christians have God’s power to turn to and he urged all to “ use this high voltage power properly.”

The affirmation of office for the members of the Archdiocesan Council followed with the nominations and election of the executive board and officers of the council. The elected members and officers are: Michael Jaharis, vice-chairman; Nicholas Bouras, treasurer; Catherine Bouffides-Walsh, secretary; and as members George Behrakis, Peter Kikis, Anthony Stefanis, Elenie Huszagh, George Matthews and George Vourvoulais.

The work of the Council continued with the presentation and discussion of issues concerning the life and the ministry of the Church as presented by the various Archdiocesan Council committees, which had met on Thursday Nov. 6. These committees were administration, communications, Greek Education, Finance and Stewardship, Religious Education and Hellenic college, Marriage and Family, Outreach and Evangelism, Youth, Philanthropy and Technology.

Convening simultaneously with the Archdiocesan Council was the national Philoptochos Board, at the beginning of the National Philoptochos board meeting; Archbishop Demetrios announced the appointment of Mrs. Aphrodite Skeadas from Greenwich, Conn., as the new National Philoptochos President for the two-year

term 2008-2010. Mrs. Skeadas accepted the appointment and the charge of the Archbishop and set as her primary goals a membership increase and active embrace of the younger generation. Archbishop Demetrios also appointed the following women as Executive Board members, Arlene Siavelis (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Maria Stavropoulos (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Kathy Gabriel (3<sup>rd</sup> Vice president), Elaine Cladis (Secretary), Joanne Kakoyiannis (Treasurer), and Martha Stefanidakis (Assistant Treasurer).

## **METROPOLIS**

Dear Philoptochos Sisters,

Over 78 years ago at a time when a woman's role was that of a mother and homemaker, and her effort in leadership in the role of business, education and government was but a dream, His Eminence Archbishop Athenagoras had a vision of the role women could play in the life of the Orthodox Church, (Philoptochos was thus Born). With commitment, a mission and vision for the future the first chapters emerged. Since then, hundreds of chapters and thousands of members have joined the ranks. As an organization grows, it needs to pause and reflect and perhaps recommit to gain new vitality for further growth. Today we are the largest Christian women's philanthropic organization in the United States, with 500 chapters and 28 thousand members with a common goal and purpose (Philanthropy).

Since Philanthropy never ends "ever" we can and we must commit to the future outcome of the organization. We are the philanthropic right arm of the Church; it is our responsibility as Orthodox Christian women 18 and above to be a Philoptochos member. This is who we are, and have been for 78 years. We must prioritize and be willing to give of our time and talents. We must make every effort to attend meetings, to give support to our Philoptochos chapter. We must remain United.

Looking forward, the future Philoptochos women will bring new ideas, new talents, and a new spirit to our chapters, remembering that the future is something we "create" not something we "enter".

It is my fervent prayer that the ladies of all parishes will join together to create larger and stronger chapters, and continue to build on the foundation that our mothers set for us, and pave the way for the future Philoptochos. Let's carry on the vision of His Eminence Archbishop Athenagoras.

Through your efforts your National organization had distributed to its beneficiaries, during a two-year period from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007 the

grand sum of \$2,768,721. During the convention in Washington DC your organization distributed \$715,258.00 total to date: January 1 2006 thru July 31<sup>st</sup> 2008 \$3,483,989,00. Ladies that is “Significant” that is “Philoptochos”.

Thanks to all my Philoptochos Sister’s for your love, talent, support, and commitment that you have given to this organization, which is truly an honor to be part of.

## **UP COMING EVENTS - METROPOLIS**

The 2009 year promises to be busy with the following upcoming events: **Vasilopita, Prevention of Child Abuse, Chapter elections, Clergy Laity Conference and HIV/AIDS WALKATHON.**

**JANUARY - Vasilopita**

**FEBRUARY - Prevention Of Child Abuse ---proceeds to your organization**

## **CLERGY LAITY**

Eight Steps to a Chapter’s Transfer of Authority:

- Step 1: The Screening Committee is appointed
- Step 2: The Election Committee is appointed
- Step 3: Written Notice is Provided
- Step 4: Election of Board of Directors
- Step 5: The Oath is Administered
- Step 6: Elections of Officers
- Step 7: Results are submitted to National Office/ Priest Signature.
- Step 8: Ratification
- 1-20 members elect 7 Directors
- 21-49 members elect between 7 and 15
- 50-99 members elect between 7and 17
- 100-199 members elect 19 Directors
- 200 plus members elect 21 Directors

Remember to have your elections in April so the new **President** as well the outgoing **President** may attend the **Denver Metropolis Clergy Laity in May**. It is

the responsibility of the President to attend all conferences; if she is unable to attend she should send some one in her place.

## **MAY**

HIV/AIDS WALKATHON--- Please make every effort to have a successful walk.

Please have your chair people/committee in place to assure success in these events.

I will continue to visit our Philoptochos chapters personally. To date I have visited 24 Chapters, creating a bond between chapters, the Metropolis and National members.

**Thanks to the chapters** that responded to my request for two Metropolis joint missions, **Bags for the Homeless** and **Prevention of Child abuse**, 25 chapters have adopted either one or both projects.

Have a Blessed New Year!!!

In Christ,  
Barb

## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### Assumption Cathedral, Denver, Colorado - President Niki Phillips

Our chapter The Assumption Cathedral of Denver has been very busy these past few months. Again we made teddy bears as one of our out reach projects. At the National Philoptochos Convention in Washington D.C. our chapter received first place for our teddy bears as our out reach project for a chapter of our size. We also made Cardiac Pillows for heart patience this year. Again our chapter as a group of 35 ladies participated in the Susan Komen Race for a Cure. On November 2, we had our first fundraiser in several years, a raffle. "WIN WITH PHILOPTOCHOS" Tickets were \$10 each and we had 9 raffle items valued between \$350 to over \$1000. It was a great success as 8 of the 9 winners were from our Cathedral Family and the 9th winner was from our sister chapter at Saint Catherine. We gave our Jr. and Sr. GOYANS \$300 to help us set up, server, and clean up. They were terrific. The drawing was held after church with a lunch prepared by Sofi DeAngelis and her family. Scott Nordstrom is one of the founders of Global Orphan Relief and a member of our community. We are proud supporters of his ministry. With our Diamond Anniversary monies we will be sponsoring a child in for one year in an

orphanage in Zambia in the village of Silembe. We have purchased bricks to help build an orphanage in this village. This is part of the Global Orphan Relief.

We have chosen Families First as our “Child Abuse Prevention Project”, for the Preservation of Children.

**Shreveport, Louisiana- Chapter President Diane DePrang**

Our chapter supports many local charities in Shreveport. We support Centerpoint, a local agency that helps people in need, Providence Home for the homeless and Gingerbread House for neglected and abused children. We also donate toys every Christmas to the Salvation Army. We are busy this month collecting health kits for IOCC and preparing for our annual pastry sale.

**Tulsa, Oklahoma – Chapter President Athena Caplanis**

For the first time, this fall, our chapter held a “Holiday Garage & Bake Sale” as a fundraiser. Gently used and new Christmas and Thanksgiving holiday items and also baked goods were sold

Also, this fall, the chapter once again prepared a complete dinner to feed the homeless for one night at the Day Care Center for the Homeless in Tulsa. Approximately 125 homeless were fed at this shelter that night. This is a project that our chapter finds to be very rewarding and the homeless who come to eat are always extremely appreciative of the dinners.

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