

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
2026 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OHIO - JUNE 29 – JULY 2



Membership Committee

Chair: Stephanie Storgion-Poplos (Detroit)

Co-Chair: Christine (Chrissie) Zeppos (San Francisco)

Members:

Stephanie Cha (Denver)
Lekita Essa (Atlanta)
Pat Gerbanas (Chicago)
Irene Hotzoglou (AD)
Paula Kalevas (Detroit)
Eleni Kalioras (Boston)
Andrea Feles Katsimbaris (Detroit)
Cynthia Kezos (SF)
Alexis Limberakis (NJ)
Stephanie Ocker (Pittsburgh)
Dena Pavlopoulos (Chicago)
Joyce Spanakis (Pittsburgh)
Bessie Ziozis (AD)

June 2026

The Membership Committee met several times since our appointment as an entire committee, as well as in focused subgroups on specific topics. The working groups are: ***Membership Plan, Development, and Chapter Leadership Succession Planning***. These subgroups met repeatedly to develop their work planning and execution and came together to agree on the outcomes as listed below.

Membership: Eleni Kalioras, Lead

As the result of the excellent leadership of Eleni Kalioras and the dedicated members of the team, a 2-year Plan for Chapters to use for increasing recruitment and retention of members, and mentoring/leadership development was completed. The Mentorship/Leadership subcommittee, led by Stephanie Storgion Poplos provided information to add to the 2-Year Plan.

With the assistance of Katherine Clark in the National Philoptochos Office, the plan was made into a digital format and can be accessed at <https://philoptochos.org/membership>.

The plan can be used from the platform and easily downloaded as a pdf making it accessible to all users. On the digital platform is a link to provide feedback to the committee as to Chapter use of the plan and results in membership recruitment, retention and mentorship/leadership development.

Leadership Succession Planning Resolutions: Chrissie Zeppos, Lead

This group carefully reviewed the 2024 Bylaws concerning Chapter Leadership as to roles of Chapter Board Officers and Leadership Succession planning.

The four areas that were addressed as needing increased attention in the Bylaws and Procedural Manuals are as follows:

1. Presidential Leadership Succession
(President Elect / President / Past President for Chapters)
 - a. Recommendation to change title of First Vice President to President Elect and Advisor to Past President (term currently used in Procedural Manual)
 - b. Need for changes reflect difficulty in recruiting members to serve as President and with planned succession an opportunity to mentor President Elect for her next role as President.
 - c. Need clarification of role of Past President in Procedural Manual to better define her role as a mentor in the Chapter.
2. Assistant Treasurer as Successor to Treasurer
 - a. Recommendation to have the Treasurer mentor the Assistant Treasurer, or vice versa, as the responsibilities of the Treasurer with electronic banking and other platforms has become more difficult. This leadership position is often the most difficult to fill within a chapter, second only to President.
 - b. This could potentially pull younger members into leadership positions.
3. Establishment of a Chapter Membership Chair Position
 - a. To clarify for Chapters the importance of designating a Board member to serve in this role to focus on recruitment and retention of members.
4. Creation of a Junior Membership Category
 - a. As our Greek Orthodox girls in High School are often searching for sites to participate in philanthropic and charitable activities, it is imperative that Philoptochos Chapters have a place for them.
 - b. Recommendation is to provide a Junior Philoptochos Membership for Greek Orthodox girls in 9th through 12th grades in the Associate Membership section of the Bylaws.
 - c. In the Procedural manual clarification could include:
 - i. No required stewardship nor per capita payment to Metropolis or National Philoptochos.
 - ii. Designation on the membership roster for Junior Philoptochos status to allow for tracking of joining as full members as indicated in the Bylaws. This would also provide a data base of young women as they move to go to college/trade schools and could be shared with Chapters in their new location for membership recruitment.
 - iii. Designating a member of the Chapter Board to serve as Mentor for these Junior Members, including full members also in mentoring and leadership training.
 - iv. Maintaining membership in GOYA for these girls would be encouraged and Chapters would continue to support activities in GOYA.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Storgion, Chair
Membership Committee