

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC. METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 - 2026



Metropolis of Atlanta

Effie Moraitakis, President

2026 National Philoptochos Convention, Cleveland, Ohio

June 29 – July 2, 2026

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,
Esteemed National Philoptochos President, Mrs. Debbie George,
Beloved sisters in Christ,

The Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos Board, our current 63 chapters, and over 3,400 members from the six states within our Metropolis, are always ready for any challenge. Under the spiritual guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta and our Advisor, Rev. Fr. Michael Platanis, Dean of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Columbia, South Carolina, we are empowered with steadfast love to put our faith in action.

A Review of 2025:

Our former Philoptochos President, Irene Politis, completed her faithful term as Metropolis President in November of 2025 at our first Metropolis Board meeting, at which time Effie Moraitakis was named our new Metropolis President. This meeting was filled with faith, love and friendship as the newly elected board was sworn in, taking the oath of office with renewed energy. More than 350 persons from the United States and Greece attended the celebratory banquet honoring the first Metropolitan of Atlanta, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. Hosted by His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos and held at The Ballroom at the Carlos Center of Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, the event brought clergy families and parish families together to recall and share the blessings of the nearly 30 years of service from Metropolitan Alexios, formerly of Atlanta. Family members traveled from Greece to join in the event and added joy and love to the celebration. The program planning was supported by members of our Metropolis Board.

On September 27, 2025, our Metropolis hosted the 20th Biennial Children's Medical Fund Luncheon in Atlanta, Georgia. It was a great honor to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, our National Spiritual Advisor, His Grace Bishop Athenagoras, and our own, His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos. Our Metropolis event coordinator Janet Algers, along with her committee members Ann Marie Moraitakis and Vassio and Voula Giannakopoulos, helped pull all the pieces of the weekend together. The luncheon was both beautiful and successful, held at the elegant Flourish in Buckhead. The event was sold out with 500 in attendance and raised over \$1,000,000. The raffle was a huge hit thanks to the generosity of Philoptochos sisters across the United States. We are deeply grateful to our underwriting donors and sponsors whose generosity made it possible for us to award 19 grants to hospitals and organizations across the Metropolis of Atlanta. Kudos to our esteemed CMF Chair, Irene Politis, as well as committee members Vickie Scaljon, Valine Georgeson, Evan Scurtis, Marty Driscoll, and Effie Moraitakis. And special thanks to Lekita Essa and Sydney Langford for their tireless work on a successful raffle.

Each Fall our 63 chapters are asked to hold a Fanouropita Event raising monies to benefit our Metropolis Youth Programs and Activities which include: the Hellenic Dance Festival, Winter Youth Rallies, various St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Events and St. Stephen's Summer Camp held at our newly renamed Alexios Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, South Carolina (renamed in honor of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, former Metropolitan of Atlanta).

The Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Conference was hosted by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Charleston, South Carolina in June 2025. Our hosts planned a beautifully well thought out and successful program. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. What a gorgeous backdrop with a rich history!

January 25, 2025, was a monumental day for the Metropolis of Atlanta as His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta was enthroned by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. The Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, Georgia was the host to hundreds of faithful as well as countless hierarchs from across the country filling the cathedral to capacity! This historical event was attended by National Philoptochos Board members, Metropolis Board members, and local Philoptochos members. Axios!

So far in 2026:

Our new Metropolis Board has been busy and full of energy in 2026. While many of our chapters have been hosting local spiritual retreats, our Annual Metropolis Spiritual Retreat took place at the Alexios Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, South Carolina on the weekend of March 20-22, 2026. ***"Bearing Myrrh"*** was the theme of the uplifting weekend with guest speaker Edna King of Family Life Ministries of Atlanta. Author of the book *One Good Thought*, Ms. King discussed the journey of extending the beauty, compassion, and steadfastness of our faith into our daily lives.

As we look forward to many new adventures in the second half of 2026, we are reminded that it is through placing our faith in action that we are putting a face to Philoptochos, looking ahead to what can be dreamed and achieved. Let us all join together in this time of renewing our membership and commitment to Philoptochos, recruiting new faces, and empowering our community through our Orthodox faith and philanthropy.

Respectfully submitted,

Effie Moraitakis, President
Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos