

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



Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos

Joyce Spanakis, 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,

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” ~ Colossians 3:17

The members of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos are thankful that after almost two years of planning and preparing, the 2026 Biennial National Philoptochos Convention is finally here! On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas and all the women of our Metropolis Philoptochos, I welcome each one of you to our beloved Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the city of Cleveland.

In the past two years since our last Convention, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh held two annual Metropolis Philoptochos Assemblies, one in Mt. Lebanon, PA, and the other in Canonsburg, PA. Each time, the number of delegates increased, which is indicative of our continued growth and connectivity throughout the Metropolis. In addition to the Philoptochos Assemblies, two annual Metropolis Retreat/Meetings were also held. In March of 2026, a record number of 80 delegates were in attendance.

At the 2025 Philoptochos Assembly, we were honored to have National President, Debbie George, in attendance for our two-day meeting and Liturgy on Sunday. Elections were held during the Assembly and the following officers and board were elected for the 2025-2027 term:

Officers: Joyce Spanakis, President
Michelle Kotsagrellos, Vice President
Eleni Gugliotta, Treasurer
Paula Yakoumas, Assistant Treasurer
Deborah Pries, Secretary
Sharon Whitman, Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Pasalis, Advisor

Board Members:	Despina Denne	Cathy Pandeladis
	Ava Hoeffler	Helen Rankin
	Paula Makris Larance	Beth Spanos
	Becky Loutsion	Marianne Stearns
	Diamond Marcum	Mary Trifelos
	Stephanie Ocker	Anna Vedouras

Over the past two years, our Metropolis of Pittsburgh has disbursed over \$110,000 to Social Service and Emergency Fund cases, Seminarian Scholarships, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Metropolis supported commitments, and charitable donations, including \$10,000 to the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Pilgrimage of Discovery Program.

In May of 2024, our Metropolis of Pittsburgh hosted the National Oratorical Festival in Pittsburgh, PA. President Joyce Spanakis represented both the Metropolis and National Philoptochos at the event. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and His Grace Bishop Athenagoras were present for the Oratorical Festival weekend.

The Metropolis Philoptochos' largest fundraiser, the Daffodil Luncheon, was held in April of 2025 at Holy Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA. At the lovely luncheon, the guest speaker was from the Mrs. Claus Club of Pittsburgh, an organization that provides comfort baskets to those going through cancer treatments. Approximately \$30,000 was raised to benefit both the Metropolis Philoptochos Emergency Fund and the Our Seminarians Our Future Fund. This year's Daffodil Luncheon was held virtually due to the National Philoptochos Convention, and close to \$9,000 was raised through donations alone. These donations will support our Social Service Fund and Our Seminarian Fund.

Metropolis President Joyce Spanakis has travelled extensively throughout the Metropolis of Pittsburgh visiting chapters, but also nationally as a member of the National Philoptochos Executive Board. Trips were made to Atlanta for the Enthronement of Metropolitan Sevastianos and again for the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon. She visited New York for the first National Board meeting of the new term, the gala event honoring Patriarch Bartholomew's awarding of the Gennadius Prize, the visit of His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, and the annual cutting of the Vasilopita. Most recently, she travelled to Boca Raton, FL for a National Board meeting this past March.

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos chapters, along with the normal philanthropic work that takes place, have also been helping prepare for the National Philoptochos Biennial Convention. Whether it be through sponsorships, baking 15,000 koulourakia, appetizers or desserts, assembling centerpieces, favors, and gifts, it has been all hands on deck to ensure that our 2026 National Philoptochos Convention is successful and that all of the delegates in attendance have a wonderful time and feel the love and philoxenia of each and every one of our members.

We are an Army of Agape and our sisterhood is strong! We pray you have a wonderful experience during the National Philoptochos Convention and that you travel home safely with new ideas, friendships, and renewed zest for Philoptochos so that the amazing work being done all over our Archdiocese continues to grow and impact lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Spanakis, President
Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos