



A GOOD WORD — Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
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2022 ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

The full-day program opened with the invocation service featuring readings from I Corinthians 3:9-16 and Mark 4:26-29, which His Eminence taught on in his Opening Remarks—we are the building & the temple, all with the same foundation (Christ) which was laid by the Apostles, built up by clergy and parents and mentors, and worked upon by ourselves. The quality of *our* work is tested, but ultimately the true work of Salvation is the Lord's. The Annual Report (available on the Metropolis website) was distributed to all the participants with a summary of the activities in the 2021-2022 Church Year.

Following reports by the Secretary, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Chancellor, the Assembly was then given an update on the New Metropolis Center project, with an overview of the completion of the Architectural and permitting process, the anticipated results of the past year's changes in markets, updated pledge and fundraising results, and an updated budget, which was unanimously approved.

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Reports were then given by the Audit Committee (with our independent auditor participating via videoconference), Registry Department, and Finance Committee (including the approval of the 2023 Metropolis Budget).

Following the Lunch break, the Assembly then heard a featured presentation on Stewardship and Tithing from Dr. Andrew Geleris, a physician and author on the topic.

The Assembly then continued with committee and ministry updates from Stewardship-Outreach-Evangelism, Youth & Young Adult Ministries (Y²AM), Camping Ministries, Youth Safety, Greek Education & Culture, Metropolis Benefactors, Administration, and Communications.

The Family Ministry report focused on the inaugural (and successful) Family Camp that had recently taken place at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. The Oratorical Festival report then discussed a change in format for the festival in 2023. The Assembly concluded with further reports from Religious Education, Philoptochos, the Resolutions Committee, the Metropolitan Maximos Endowment & Camp Endowment.

PHILOPTOCHOS ASSEMBLY ELECTS OFFICERS, DISTRIBUTES GENEROUSLY

On Saturday, September 24, 2022, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society met for its first meeting of the new Ecclesiastical Year in conjunction with the Clergy-Laity Assembly at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh, PA.

Thirty women were present at the meeting which began with the election of officers. Barb Pasalis, Election Chair, presented the slate of officers and board members. Elected to the 2022-2025 term were:

- Joyce Spanakis, President
- Anna Vedouras, Vice-President
- Despina Denne, Recording Secretary
- Sharon Whitman, Corresponding Secretary
- Paula Makris-Larance, Treasurer
- Eleni Gugliotta, Assistant Treasurer

After the elections, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, administered the Oath of Office on the newly appointed officers and board members and then offered a brief spiritual reflection for the entire group.

Afterwards, the minutes of the last meeting were approved, the treasurer's report was presented, as well as reports from various committee chairs.

The members broke for a delicious catered luncheon and then resumed the meeting with presentations from the following guest speakers:

- Alyssa Kyritsis and Marina Papafil— Youth & Camp Ministries and Weekend of Service
- Fr. Matthew Moore – The Hub in Steubenville
- Rhea Ballas – Youth Safety

- Archon Nick Lekas – New Metropolis Center presentation/videos
- Helen Rankin and Deborah Pries—National convention experience and take-aways

President Joyce Spanakis shared her experience at the National Convention AGAPE Breakfast where she accepted the award on behalf of the All Saints Philoptochos Chapter in Weirton, WV. She then extended the invitation to Weirton chapter president, Pearl Tranto, to share her thoughts on her chapter's recognition. Pearl spoke lovingly about the members of her chapter and their commitment to their parish as well as Philoptochos.

Vice-president, Anna Vedouras, announced that this year's Daffodil Luncheon would be held in person on April 1, 2023 in Cleveland, Ohio. The luncheon will be hosted jointly by the Northeast Ohio Philoptochos Chapters. A venue has not yet been decided for the event and a committee of Metropolis board members will be put in place to act as liaison and work with the host chapters. Barbara Pasalis shared portions of a presentation on membership that was given at the National Convention in July. The ladies discussed ways to increase membership in our chapters.

Finally, Paula Makris-Larance and Eleni Gugliotta presented the budget for 2023 and disbursements that were collected through commitments this past year were voted upon to be disbursed to the various entities for which the money was collected. Joyce Spanakis gave closing remarks and ended the meeting at 5:45 pm with a prayer for safe travels to the ladies present as they returned to their hometowns and for God's continued guidance and blessings on the Philoptochos' work as we strive to do Christ's work.

SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES: It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas's Archpastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and



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