



## The Ladies Philoptochos Society



### Church of the Holy Cross

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### PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD

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# Philoptochos News Phlash!

September 8, 2020

Highlights from our **Zoom** Board Meeting on September 8, 2020. We want you to know what we are working on and where your donations and contributions to Philoptochos go.

- ❖ **Support for our Commitments during Covid** – The commitments to all our ministries were authorized for payment. The support for those in need continues on even when we are not meeting. We hope that you will consider continuing your support of Philoptochos with your time, talent and treasure because we cannot do it without you. We are looking at how we can run our events and fundraising virtually in the coming year. Some ideas that we brainstormed were: An online improv comedy show with Basile, a 50-50 Cash drawing, an online Bingo Night, a “Cocktail Party,” and a health symposium with expert guest speakers who are leaders in their field. We would love your feedback on these ideas or maybe you have an awesome one to share with us. Please email Helene at [hrnemchik@aol.com](mailto:hrnemchik@aol.com).
- ❖ **Raffle 2020** – Our Zoom raffle held in July was a wonderful success. Over 40 Philoptochos members from our parish and other Bay Area parishes attended. Our own Virginia Coppock debuted her memoir *Heartbreak, Survival, and Love*. Our raffle held in lieu of our Fashion Show netted over \$3,000 to help fund scholarships for our graduating seniors who have served our Church. Check out the Fashion Show *memories* video on our Facebook page. Go to [Church of the Holy Cross Philoptochos](#) and “like” the page.
- ❖ **Social Services Application** – If you are experiencing financial hardship at this time, due to the virus, you might consider filling out an application to receive some relief. The Social Services ministry of the Metropolis and National Philoptochos might be able to help. Please visit the websites for both ministries for an application or call Mary Peros (650-766-3831) or Helene Nemchik (650-345-2719) for assistance. Father Peter is also a wonderful resource for confidential assistance through our Benevolence Fund.
- ❖ **Philoptochos ListServ** – Our database with which we can contact all of you and keep you informed continues to be so helpful. There are over 120 members currently receiving messages. Please make sure that when you fill out your membership form for 2020 that you include your email. This will be a secure email system where only your name will appear on any email we send. If you know someone who may want to be included, please have them contact Nina Azar at [ninaazar13@gmail.com](mailto:ninaazar13@gmail.com).
- ❖ **Highlights of the National Philoptochos Convention** - Several of our members attended this online event. All attendees felt the convention was well-run and highly informative. Information was shared on the following highlights:
  - Bylaw Changes (Laura): The board election reporting process was streamlined down to one reporting and the National President must approve a third term president.
  - Resolutions (Laura): A resolution was adopted to show our support of keeping Hagia Sophia open as a museum and to include protection of the Chora Monastery as well.

- Opioid/Vaping (Helene): A guest speaker, Anthony Hoffman, shared his journey with addiction, incarceration, and recovery. Another speaker spoke on the dangers of vaping, which include high doses of nicotine and dangerous additives like weed killer and Vitamin A. It was suggested that this information be presented to our parents and youth.
- Covid (Mary) – A summary of a physician and a psychologist’s data included key takeaways, like 50% of spreaders are non-symptomatic, virus infection is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death after heart and cancer, three vaccines are in trials and psychological problems and drug use is up.
- Project Classroom and Kindness (Nina) – A children’s new shoe giveaway program was shared and unsolicited notes and small gift bags were recommended to seniors and shut-ins. This may become a good partnering with our Stewardship Committee to support our parish.
- ❖ **Personal Care Closet** – This effort will continue to support lower income children in our local schools to access personal care items, which we hope now will include noise cancelling earphones for online learning. Items will be able to be purchased through Amazon and will be delivered where needed. More information to follow.
- ❖ **Our 2020 membership** is currently at 111. Our membership drive is still underway. It is not too late to send in your membership response or sign up online on the Holy Cross website! Log on to <http://www.goholycross.org> and follow the links to online giving. Don’t forget to provide your email.
- ❖ **Father Leon Contos Graduate Scholarship Award** winner will be announced very soon.
- ❖ **Festival News** – Our *Take and Bake* promotion has begun. Go to Facebook for a “commercial” on how you can order and when you can pick up delicious festival favorites like moussaka, lamb, and spanakopita.

**Here’s to a very successful and healthy new Ecclesiastical Year!**