

## **Maria Logus**

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, announced the appointment of **Maria Logus, Esq.** of New York as the new National Philoptochos President at the inaugural meeting of the 2014-2016 National Philoptochos Board held on October 17, 2014 at the Hilton Hotel in New York. Archbishop Demetrios praised Miss Logus for her commitment and service to Philoptochos and the Church.

National President Maria Logus is a lifelong resident of the New York City borough of Brooklyn and parishioner at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church. She is currently a lawyer for the New York State Unified Court System, and has had three decades of legal experience. She studied at New York University and Brooklyn Law School.

She joined Philoptochos at age 18, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, and her mother, who held several positions in the organization. In 1986, Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America of blessed memory appointed Miss Logus to the Philoptochos National Board in the role of Parliamentarian. Multiple leadership roles followed, including Chair for two National Conventions and First Vice President under Presidents Mimi Skandalakis, Eve Condakes, and Georgia Skeadas. She was President of the Board of Saint Basil Academy for several years and served on the boards of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and St. Michael's Home.

Her paternal grandparents hail from Constantinople and her maternal grandparents are from the island Limnos.

On accepting the appointment and the charge of Archbishop Demetrios, President Logus states, "Our National Board is blessed with a dynamic group of women. I look forward to working with all of them to advance the values and the mission of the Philoptochos Society. We will embrace new members as we continue to give honor to our founders."

The three programs that President Logus has initiated are:

**A Return to Basics.** She calls on Chapters to partner with other organizations in their communities in joint projects, thereby involving the entire community in tangible, hands-on philanthropy. She challenged Chapters across the country to band together to provide 250,000 meals for those in need by the next national convention in July 2016. "Feeding the homeless and the hungry will not only provide nourishment to those we serve; the physical act of giving will feed our souls and our spirits as well," she said.

**Expanded and Enhanced Communications.** The national organization will harness all modes of communication to bring awareness and a greater understanding of the work of Philoptochos to the community at large. A goal of producing monthly educational webinars has been established.

**Growth and Development of the Membership.** The National Philoptochos will establish a Leadership Institute to provide instructional seminars, discussion groups and field trips with the goal of more fully informing new members on the work of Philoptochos and engaging them as our future leaders. In addition, a pilot program is being established that will partner chapters of Orthodox Christian Fellowship on college campuses with local Philoptochos Chapters. Studies show that the Millennials are eager to volunteer, and the future of the Society will rest with their future participation in our organization.