# PHFOFL Activities for 2023-24

**Mission**

The Panhellenic Federation of Florida (PHFOFL) Promotes and Advances Hellenism and supports its member Associations with its resources.

**Communications and Community Outreach**

* PHFOFL keeps sponsoring the **PANHELLENIC NEWS** Radio Program and has a new logo for it.
* PHFOFL’s Website and Facebook pages are constantly being updated with activities, news, and events of all of its member Associations (Syllogoi).
* PHFOFL’s Tarpon Springs office started opening at the end of October 2023 and it will be open every Wednesday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
* PHFOFL had a booth at the Holy Trinity Greek Festival showcasing the PanHellenic Federation,
* Invited the Consul General of Greece to the weekly Radio Program to discuss and keep the community informed on the new law that was passed for mail-in voting for Diaspora who have Greek I.D. or passports.
* PHFOFL conducted a street cleaning of Florida Avenue in Tarpon Springs on Saturday, March 30th. We do this 4 times a year.
* Vassiliki drafted a letter to the Archdiocese In New York concerning the change of format on the calendars the Archdiocese has sent out to all the churches these last 2 years. The holidays and Saints days are not clearly shown as they were before.
* Giota drafted a letter to the Greek Churches in our area asking them for a reduced rental price for our annual dinner dances.

**Hellenism and Culture**

* Memorials were held for the Pontian and Asia Minor Genocides of the Greeks and other Christians.
* PHFOFL conducted a FLAG RAISING ceremony, on Saturday, October 28th, our national OXI holiday,

at the Holy Trinity Church courtyard, and our national anthems were played.

* Two members of PHFOFL (Giota and Vassiliki) were elected to the Parade Committee Board.
* The PHFOFL, Archons of Holy Trinity, and the KPHTH Chapter of Clearwater sponsored the Tampa Museum of Art Greek Antiquities Collection exhibit at the Matheos Hall in Holy Trinity Church, Clearwater, on Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. The presenter, Dr. Branko F. van Oppen de Ruiter, gave us interesting details and information on this particular Greek collection and the other exhibits at the museum.
* PHFOFL marched at the March 17th Greek Independence Day parade.
* PHFOFL on Sunday, March 31st, conducted a raising-of-the-flag ceremony at the Holy Trinity Church courtyard for our Independence Day.
* PHFOFL and KPHTH Chapter of Clearwater co-hosted Mr. Velivasakis’ speech on the Kazantzakis commemoration at the Cretan House on April 11, 2024.
* PHFOFL setup a ZOOM conference on Tuesday, April 16 at 9 a.m., with the Goulandris Foundation and the THALLO organization on the subject “Digital Game for adults” which has been shown to help seniors with Alzheimer’s disease.

**Education**

* PHFOFL donated $1,100 to the AHEPA “Journey to Greece” project.
* PHFOFL will award a $50 scholarship to students graduating from local community Greek Schools
  + **St. Nicholas Church** – Georgia Papapavlou and Angelina Thibodeau. The graduation ceremony will take place on Friday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m.
  + **Holy Trinity Church** – Alexandra Solomon and Sotiris Furey. The graduation ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 19th.

**National Affairs**

* Sponsors and supports “Call-to-Action” efforts on issues of interest to Hellenism.
* The National Affairs Committee sent a letter concerning illegal migration in Greece.
* The National Affairs Committee sent a letter welcoming Greece’s new Ambassador in Washington D.C.
* The National Affairs Committee sent a letter to Secretary of State Mr. Blinken regarding Turkish violations of Greece’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
* PHFOFL has sent letters to the President, Secretary of State, and key members of the congress on Fredi Beleri (Mayor elect of Himara in Βόρεια Ήπειρος) in Albania who was falsely accused of fraudulently buying votes in the May 2023 Himara elections without any substantial evidence and sentenced to 2 years in prison.
* The National Affairs Committee sent a letter to the Greek government regarding lack of radio program access in certain mountainous regions and islands of Greece where Turkish programs are being broadcasted but Greek programs are not available to the local population.
* Letters were sent to secretary of state Mr. Blinken, the President, and key members of the Congress demanding the freedom of Mayor-elect, Fredi Beleri,
* Letter sent to Senator Rand Paul thanking him for introducing and bringing a vote for S.J. Res. 60 to oppose the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.
* Letters sent to National Geographic for showing maps in the publication “ATLAS OF THE BIBLE” which depict the illegally Turkish occupied part of Cyprus as “Northern Cyprus” and for showing Asia Minor as “Turkey”
* PHFOF is keeping a close eye on proposals for resolving the Cyprus issue with proposals that are very similar to the “Annan Plan”, which was voted down by the people of Cyprus. The new proposals are a rehash of the same plan with its main purpose being to dissolve the Republic of Cyprus.
* PHFOFL raised serious concerns regarding Greece’s Minister of Greek National Defense, Dendias, proposals to sell valuable Greek Air force aircraft. This poses serious issues for Greece’s defense as it would reduce the Greek Air force size by more than 1/3. The National Affairs committee sent a letter to Mr. Mitsotakis against the proposals to downsize the Greek National Defense.

# PHFOFL Future Activities until the end of 2024

* PHFOFL is working on its new fundraising campaign.
* PHFOFL will commemorate the Pontian Genocide in May 2024 with a Memorial.
* Members of PHFOFL will participate in the 39th Annual PSEKA Conference in Washington D.C. on June 11-13, 2024.
* PHFOFL will hold a Memorial for the Asia Minor Genocide (**Μικρασιατική Καταστροφή**) in Sept. 2024
* PHFOFL will participate in the Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Church in October 2024.
* Street cleaning in June, September and December 2024.
* OXI Day Commemoration in October 2024.
* PHFOFL will hold its General Assembly in October 2024.