

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America



Bylaws

(English Language translation)

*Adopted in the Ukrainian language by the
XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America
on September 25, 2016, Hartford, CT*

Section 1

Name and Goals

Name of the organization: Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Inc.; abbrev.: UCCA

Goals of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America:

- 1a. To coordinate and consolidate the development of organized Ukrainian life in the United States of America (USA) and strive to increase the importance and role of the Ukrainian-American community in the civic and cultural life of the country.
- 1b. To represent the Ukrainian-American community and its desire to aid the people of Ukraine before the governmental structures of the United States of America.
2. To educate and disseminate information about Ukraine and its people and provide all possible means of support for an independent and democratic Ukrainian state.
3. To assist the Ukrainian people in attaining fair and honest treatment equal with other peoples, as an independent member of the family of sovereign nations. UCCA assists the development of open, honest, and transparent elections and the democratization of election processes in Ukraine, including the organizing of international Election Observation Missions.
4. To take part in providing appropriate and tangible assistance to the people of Ukraine through cooperation with Ukrainian charitable, private, governmental and non-governmental organizations and their activities.
5. To assist, support and cooperate with the United States government in creating an equitable world order.
6. In order to accomplish its goals, UCCA shall:
 - a. Loyal cooperate with government authorities in their policies for the common good;
 - b. Establish a network of contacts throughout the country to assist in coordinating and corresponding with civic and religious organizations and institutions;
 - c. Publish relevant materials including press releases, journals, books, etc.;
 - d. Conduct an annual appeal for the Ukrainian National Fund (UNF).

Section II

Membership

- 1a. The Membership of UCCA consists of representatives of Ukrainian organizations in the United States, as well as individuals of Ukrainian nationality or ancestry. Individuals not of Ukrainian nationality or ancestry may become members of UCCA if they evidence a deep

dedication to the Ukrainian people and the principles of UCCA and meet all other membership requirements, excluding Ukrainian nationality or ancestry. These individuals become members by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the governing board of their local UCCA Branch and approval by UCCA's Membership Committee.

1b. Every national or local Ukrainian organization, institution, committee, club, or individual has the right to become a UCCA member, on the condition that they demonstrate their agreement with the goals and purpose of UCCA and pay their annual membership dues.

1c. All UCCA members should work together to effectuate the common goals of UCCA; UCCA members should be mutually tolerant as noted in the clause on acceptance of new members, and support all of the activities of the UCCA through donations to its various funds and other activities necessary for accomplishing its goals.

1d. Members who do not adhere to the principles adopted in the bylaws and do not abide by the stated goals of UCCA may lose their membership after review and notification by UCCA's National Council; however, dismissed members have the right to appeal the decision at the UCCA Convention.

2. Prior to accession to UCCA's National Council, each organization shall be vetted by UCCA's Membership Committee. Individuals are accepted for membership by local UCCA Branches. Individuals who reside in areas where there are no UCCA Branches, may become UCCA members by submitting a written application and contributing annually to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund directly to UCCA's National Office. Each organization/member shall sign a suitable affirmation, in which they agree to:

- a. Recognize and support the principles of the United States government and its Constitution;
- b. Actively support the activities of UCCA through all possible means and adhere to the resolutions adopted by UCCA's Executive Board and National Council;
- c. Condemn and oppose without hesitation all totalitarian doctrines, ideals and principles (Communism, Anarchism, Fascism, Nazism, authoritarian party rule, etc.);
- d. Provide their name, address and contact information;
- e. Provide, in case of organizations, the number of their organization's members;
- f. Pay the yearly member contribution to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund and meet all other monetary obligations (failure to meet this stipulation are grounds for termination of UCCA membership).

3. To maintain their rights as members, every delegate at the UCCA Convention and every UCCA official, as well as any member of UCCA's special or standing committees, shall first and foremost solemnly declare that neither they as individuals, nor their member organization/s, promote, nor belong to any such organization, which declares as its goal the destruction of the government of the United States of America by force or revolution, and that they as individuals and the member organization/s they represent, shall pledge to support the

democratic principles of self-determination of all peoples, without hesitation, wherever they should live. Delegates take part in the UCCA Convention individually and must have paid in full their annual membership contributions to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund.

4. In any city or area with at least two member organizations, or ten (10) individual members, who have paid their annual contribution to the UNF, a local UCCA branch may be established, subject to the by-laws, rules and regulations approved by UCCA's National Council.

Section III

Membership Committee

UCCA's National Council appoints three (3) members to the Membership Committee, which is authorized and required to review each application for membership and ensure that all membership requirements are met. A majority vote of this Committee is required in order to grant UCCA membership to a potential candidate. Candidates who are denied membership and are notified of such in writing have the right to appeal this decision in writing to the UCCA Convention.

Section IV

UCCA Convention

1. A convention of all UCCA members shall take place under the heading *Congress of Ukrainians in America* every four years, coinciding with U.S. Presidential election years, at a place and time approved by UCCA's National Council. All members shall be notified about the convention through announcements in the Ukrainian press at least one hundred (100) days prior to the UCCA Convention.
2. An Extraordinary Convention may be called on the basis of a two thirds (2/3) vote of UCCA's National Council and shall also be announced at least one hundred days prior to the event.
3. The UCCA Convention reviews reports by members of UCCA's Executive Board and governing committees and grants them absolution from further obligations, elects members of the new UCCA Executive Board and governing bodies, decides on the direction of UCCA's future plans of action, and settles all issues on the Convention's agenda.
4. The UCCA Convention is composed of properly elected delegates from UCCA's Branches, the heads of the State Coordinating Councils and Regional Committees of UCCA Branches, delegates who have contributed annually to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund, and members of UCCA's National Council, Executive Board, National Audit Commission and National Mediation Court. The method of selecting delegates to represent those individual members not belonging to a UCCA Branch, shall be determined by UCCA's National Council.
5. The nomination of candidates to UCCA's Executive Board and governing committees is

carried out by the nine (9) members of the Nominating Committee, which are appointed by UCCA's National Council. The responsibility of this Nominating Committee is to review the qualifications of proposed candidates and recommend candidates who, on the basis of this Nominating Committee's findings, are best qualified for the given post.

The aforementioned does not preclude the nomination of candidates at the UCCA Convention itself.

Elections for the post of the UCCA President are held separately, whereas elections for all other elected posts are by slate.

After their election, all elected UCCA officers and committee members are to perform their duties until such time as, by the terms of the bylaws, they are absolved of their duties and obligations.

6. Every UCCA Member Organization or UCCA Branch has the right to send their representative or representatives to the UCCA Convention in accordance with the following stipulations:
 - a. Each UCCA Member Organization or UCCA Branch with no less than ten (10) and no more than twenty-five (25) actual members has the right to send one (1) delegate;
 - b. Each UCCA Member Organization or UCCA Branch with more than twenty-five (25) members, has the right to send two (2) delegates;
 - c. Every UCCA Member National Organization has the right to send:
 - One (1) delegate if their membership numbers less than two hundred and fifty (250);
 - Two (2) delegates if their membership numbers two hundred and fifty (250) or more, but is not greater than seven hundred and fifty (750);
 - Three (3) delegates if their membership numbers seven hundred and fifty (750) or more, but is not greater than one thousand, two hundred and fifty (1,250);
 - Four (4) delegates if their membership numbers one thousand, two hundred and fifty (1,250) or more, but is not greater than two thousand (2,000);
 - Five (5) delegates if their membership numbers two thousand (2,000) or more;
7. UCCA Member Organizations and individual UCCA members are required to contribute annually to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund which, upon verification by UCCA's Finance Committee, is to be confirmed at the UCCA Convention. The annual contribution to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund is also determined and ratified at the UCCA Convention following a proposal by UCCA's Finance Committee.
8. Each authorized UCCA Branch must call a General Meeting of all of their annual contributors to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund, for the purposes of selecting a delegate/s to the UCCA Convention. A UCCA Branch with at least twenty-five (25) contributors of annual dues to

UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund in its regional area has the right to select two (2) delegates to the UCCA Convention. The branch may choose an additional delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) (or portion thereof) annual contributors to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund.

Section V

UCCA National Council

1. During the intervening period between UCCA Conventions, UCCA's National Council is the highest ruling body of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.
2. In accordance with these Bylaws and the decisions of the UCCA Convention, UCCA's National Council develops and approves UCCA's plans of action, approves the activities of UCCA's Executive Board and, if necessary, makes adjustments to its plans and activities.
3. The first meeting of UCCA's National Council following the UCCA Convention shall be called by the Chair of UCCA's National Council.
4. UCCA's National Council is composed of:
 - a. Two (2) delegates each, chosen by the heads of the three (3) main Ukrainian religious faiths on the territory of the United States of America;
 - b. One (1) delegate each from each active UCCA Member National Organization or Member Central Organization; UCCA Member National Organizations or Member Central Organizations with more than 10 active branches have the right to appoint one (1) additional delegate;
 - c. UCCA Branch Presidents or their designees;
 - d. Delegates of educational institutions without physical members, who have been approved for membership by UCCA's National Council;
 - e. Members of UCCA's Executive Board;
 - f. The head of UCCA's Educational Council and the Editor-in-Chief of "The Ukrainian Quarterly";
5. The Chair of UCCA's National Council is obliged to call the first meeting of the National Council within ninety (90) days after the UCCA Convention, and to complete the Presidium of UCCA's National Council with the election of two deputies and two secretaries.
6. To ensure continuity in the planning of UCCA activities, members of UCCA's National Council should obtain mandates from their organizations for the entire term of UCCA's National Council between UCCA Conventions. This stipulation does not apply to those members of UCCA's National Council who enter from elected posts in their organizations each year. Members of UCCA's National Council should participate in plenary sessions and Committees in person.
7. UCCA's National Council convenes regularly at least two (2) times annually. Emergency meetings occur at the initiative of the Presidium of UCCA's National Council or by proposal

of the Presidium of UCCA's Executive Board. Such meeting shall be called by the Presidium of UCCA's National Council within two weeks of receipt of such a request by UCCA's National Office.

8. During the meeting held in December, UCCA's National Council reviews and approves the annual reports of members of UCCA's Executive Board, and approves the budget and plans for action for UCCA's Executive Board.
9. UCCA's National Council forms Standing Committees to develop plans of action and to review the activity of individual UCCA working groups. These Committees function under the leadership of their Chairpersons who are elected from among their own ranks, and convene to meet as necessary.
10. At meetings of UCCA's National Council, members of UCCA's Executive Board abstain from voting on matters related to the oversight of UCCA's Executive Board. UCCA Executive Board members vote only on general/national issues and matters related to UCCA's internal and external political affairs.
11. At every regular meeting of UCCA's National Council, the Presidium of UCCA's Executive Board reports on the activities of the entire Executive Board during the intervening period since the last regular meeting.
12. At the first meeting of UCCA's National Council following the UCCA Convention, a separate Political Advisory Committee made up of influential individuals of the Ukrainian-American community may be appointed. These individuals provide analysis of the needs and programs for the Ukrainian-American community, as well as recommendations as to how to best forge relations with government officials in Ukraine and the United States. The Political Advisory Committee meets as needed at the discretion of the UCCA President and provides UCCA's Executive Board with their recommendations for final approval.

Section VI

UCCA Executive Board

In accordance with these Bylaws and the decisions of the UCCA Convention, UCCA's Executive Board is purposed to execute the plans and directives of UCCA's National Council and to represent the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The UCCA Convention elects the following members to UCCA's Executive Board:

- a. UCCA President
- b. Chair of UCCA's National Council
- c. Vice President
- d. Secretary
- e. Treasurer
- f. 10 members

The Presidium of UCCA's Executive Board is composed of:

- a. UCCA President
 - b. Chair of UCCA's National Council
 - c. Vice President
 - d. Secretary
 - e. Treasurer.
1. UCCA's Executive Board reviews all matters at meetings held at least four (4) times per year. In the event that a matter requires urgent attention, the matter can be adjudicated on by the Presidium of UCCA's Executive Board, and then brought up for ratification at the next meeting of UCCA's Executive Board. Members of UCCA's Executive Board take part in the meetings individually, without proxy.
 2. All members of UCCA's Executive Board are obliged to attend meetings of UCCA's National Council.
 3. The detailed division of functions among the individual members of UCCA's Executive Board is regulated by guidelines agreed upon by UCCA's Executive Board.
 4. An individual can be elected to the post of UCCA President for no more than two consecutive terms.
 5. The UCCA President can be elected as an individual without being a representative of a member organization.

Section VII

State Coordinating Councils and Regional Committees of UCCA Branches

1. UCCA Branches located in one State or region may form a State Coordinating Council or a Regional Committee, and formulate their own governing guidelines, as long as these guidelines do not conflict with UCCA's Bylaws.
2. The President of a State Coordinating Council or Regional Committee of UCCA Branches has the right to be a delegate to the UCCA Convention.

Section VIII

Bylaws Committee

1. At the first meeting of UCCA's National Council following the UCCA Convention, five (5) members are elected to the Bylaws Committee.
2. The Bylaws Committee reviews proposed changes to the Bylaws on the basis of proposals

submitted by UCCA members as well as their own observations.

3. UCCA members have the right to submit to the Bylaws Committee proposed amendments to the Bylaws no later than six months prior to the UCCA Convention.
4. Three months prior to the UCCA Convention, the Bylaws Committee shall send a draft of proposed changes to the Bylaws to all the UCCA Member Organizations and individual members, with the stipulation that they return their comments to the Bylaws Committee no later than 4 weeks prior to the UCCA Convention.
5. Approval of changes to the Bylaws proposed by the Bylaws Committee shall be made by a two thirds ($2/3$) majority vote in the presence of at least two thirds ($2/3$) of the registered delegates at the UCCA Convention. Approval of changes to the Bylaws not endorsed by the majority of the Bylaws Committee, but originating from a minority member/s of the Bylaws Committee, shall be made by the same two thirds ($2/3$) majority vote in the presence of at least two thirds ($2/3$) of the registered delegates at the UCCA Convention.
6. Approval of changes to the Bylaws not proposed by the Bylaws Committee but originating from the floor of the UCCA Convention, or the approval of corrections to changes to the Bylaws proposed by the Bylaws Committee, requires a three quarters ($3/4$) majority vote in the presence of two thirds ($2/3$) of the registered delegates to the UCCA Convention.
7. The Bylaws Committee is the only body authorized to interpret the provisions in the Bylaws.

Section IX

UCCA National Audit Committee

1. A Chairman and four (4) members are elected to UCCA's National Audit Committee at the UCCA Convention. Upon their initial meeting, this committee shall elect from among its members a Deputy Chair and two Secretaries for the Ukrainian and English languages respectively.
2. UCCA's National Audit Committee is the audit body of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America that presents the findings of its audits to UCCA's National Council and to the UCCA Convention. This Committee reviews the activities of UCCA, audits the budget and financial statements, as well as the reviews the execution of decisions of UCCA's governing bodies no less than once a year. If necessary, UCCA's National Audit Committee can audit the activities and execution of strategy of UCCA's Branches.
3. UCCA's National Audit Committee shall submit reports of its finding at meetings of UCCA's National Council and at the UCCA Convention, where it is also tasked with proposing the motion to grant absolution.
4. The Chair of UCCA's National Audit Committee or a designated member of UCCA's National Audit Committee may attend meetings of UCCA's Executive Board in an advisory capacity.

5. UCCA's National Audit Committee convenes with a quorum of at least three (3) members, including the Chair or his appointed deputy.

Section X

UCCA National Mediation Court

1. A Chair and four (4) members are elected to UCCA's National Mediation Court at the UCCA Convention.
2. UCCA's National Mediation Court considers and resolves misunderstandings that occur in the course of UCCA activity — between UCCA's State Coordinating Councils, between individual members of UCCA's governing bodies — which are presented for consideration and resolution to UCCA's National Mediation Court by UCCA's governing bodies.
3. UCCA's National Mediation Court considers and resolves appeals of rulings by the Mediation Courts of UCCA Branches.
4. Cases presented for consideration and resolution shall be heard by three (3) members of UCCA's National Mediation Court, with each opposing side selecting one (1) member of the Court. The two (2) selected members of the Court then select a third member, who acts as Chair.
5. Both opposing parties have the right to appeal any Court decision to an en banc proceeding of UCCA's National Mediation Court.
6. UCCA's National Mediation Court is obligated to consider and resolve a given issue no later than three months from their receipt of all required documents.

Section XI

General Resolutions

1. UCCA's National Council can, at the request of one of its members and with a two thirds (2/3) majority vote, suspend any member of UCCA's governing bodies for violating a provision of the Bylaws, or for actions damaging to UCCA. The suspended member has the right of appeal to UCCA's National Mediation Court, which must rule on the matter.
2. UCCA Member National Organizations and Member Central Organizations may recall their appointed representatives to UCCA's governing bodies, and propose suitable candidates for their replacement to UCCA's National Council.
3. UCCA's National Council can fill vacant posts in UCCA's governing bodies in the event of death, resignation or suspension of a member, by selecting a new member proposed by the

member organization whose representative vacated that post.

4. Each UCCA governing body passes resolutions at its meetings by majority vote in the presence of a majority of its members, including the Chair or Deputy Chair, unless otherwise resolved. If a majority of the authorized participants of the UCCA Convention, or meeting of UCCA's National Council, Executive Board or Committee do not arrive at the appointed time for the meeting, then the UCCA Convention, or meeting of UCCA's National Council, Executive Board or Committee shall begin one hour past the appointed time in the presence of however many members there are. However, any resolution shall then pass by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of all those present. In such an event, the previously announced agenda for that meeting may not be altered.
5. In carrying out their functions, members of UCCA's governing bodies should be neutral regarding the activities of any political party, and no member of UCCA's governing bodies has the right to associate themselves with any political party in the name of UCCA.
6. Unless otherwise stated in the provisions of the Bylaws or the guidelines of any UCCA governing body, the UCCA Convention and all meetings of UCCA governing bodies are to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the most recent edition of "Robert's Rules of Order."
7. All UCCA activities shall be conducted in compliance with all applicable Federal and State Laws, including the Rules and Regulations governing organizations recognized under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).
8. Meetings of UCCA's National Council, Executive Board, or UCCA Branches should be conducted with the physical presence of their respective members. However, in the event of necessity, meetings of UCCA's National Council, Executive Board, or UCCA Branches may be conducted in alternative formats – by telecommunication or electronic means – and these meetings shall be deemed valid.