



Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

Serving the Ukrainian American community
for 78 years

2018 Annual Report

Word from the President



The strength of UCCA has always been our moral position and foresight. We look beyond the horizon to establish a plan of action to tackle the most pressing issues of our time, while remaining true to our mission of representing the interests of our Ukrainian American community. Today, as in the previous 5 years, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine continues to occupy much of UCCA's efforts.

This challenge facing Ukraine is global in nature and requires a unified response. Thus, much time and effort was dedicated in 2018 to revitalize and re-energize UCCA; working towards re-integrating former UCCA member organizations back into the fold, reinvigorating our existing branches, as well as exploring the possibility of establishing new local chapters in communities throughout the United States.

UCCA's Washington, DC bureau – the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) - tirelessly worked to advance legislation and major policy directives in support of Ukraine. Evidence of our success, which was strengthened by UNIS' "Ukrainian Days" program and the continued support from our community, was the fact that major legislative initiatives benefiting Ukraine were enacted in 2018. For the first time ever the U.S. Congress recognized the Holodomor as an act of Genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

UCCA's impact on the global stage was also marked, in having a strong presence and being elected to several major posts at the Congress of the Ukrainian World Congress in Kyiv, our work in New York, and in my regular working visits to Ukraine, meeting with Ukraine's government officials and civil society representatives at the highest level.

In the pages that follow, you will read many positive achievements and highlights of UCCA's work and advocacy in 2018. Nevertheless, we should remind ourselves that much more work remains to be done. As long as Russia's aggression towards Ukraine continues, and Crimea remains illegally occupied, UCCA pledges to continue working unwaveringly to fulfill our mission – to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I call on you to join our cause!

Entering the fifth year of Russia's aggression in Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea, 2018 was a year committed to advocating support for an independent, whole and democratic Ukraine.

[illegible]

In the House of Representatives, U. S.
July 14, 1958

Whereas the United States has shown strong commitment to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic development of the countries that emerged from the ashes of the former Soviet Union and the communist bloc it once dominated;

Whereas many of these countries, during the past three decades, undertaken the extensive political and economic reforms necessary to achieve their aspirations for European and Euro-Atlantic integration; and are continuing to do so;

Whereas the incorporation of Central and Eastern European countries into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has contributed to a vision of Europe that is whole and free and united in peace, democracy, and common values;



After the crisis escalated further in November, when Russian forces captured 3 Ukrainian ships and illegally took hostage all 24 Ukrainian sailors on board the ships, UCCA pressed legislators across the country to send strong messages of support for Ukraine.

Calendar No. 57

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 27

Calling for a prompt multinational freedom of navigation operation in the Black Sea and urging the cancellation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. DEBBES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INDOPE, Mr. RIED, Mrs. SHARHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALOWS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CARRION, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CORY, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORSTEN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, Mr. CHAPPEL, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GREGG, Mr. GROSS, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. HIRONO, Mr. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNS, Mr. KAHN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANFORD, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASS, Mr. SCHUTZ, Mr. SMITH, Mr. STEADMAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BARRON, Mr. MYERSON, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted

In addition to taking every available measure to secure their immediate release, UCCA urged our community to support “FreeUkrainePOWs,” the international campaign launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and share their activism with others through social media, using the following hashtags:

#FreeUkrainianPOWs
#RussiaAttacksUkraine
#StopRussianAggression

Furthermore, during the Christmas season, UCCA launched a letter-writing campaign to let the illegally detained, brave sailors – now moved to Stalin’s favorite prison in Moscow - that we have not forgotten about them, and that the Ukrainian American community is doing all that we can in support of them.



Significant acknowledgement of the **Holodomor** as a Genocide against the Ukrainian nation was also noted by the unanimously adopted Resolutions in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and through dozens of statewide Resolutions marking the 85th anniversary year.



Our advocacy of Ukraine-related issues continued when dozens of community members traveled from across the country to Washington, DC to participate in

Ukrainian Days



Spending the day meeting face-to-face with their elected officials in our nation's capital.



And the Ukrainian Embassy appreciative of our community's efforts in strengthening US-Ukraine relations.



Impact of Global Diplomacy...

Throughout 2018, UCCA held hundreds of meetings both at home and in Ukraine. Conducting these frequent exchanges enabled UCCA to communicate directly with Ukraine's top leaders both in government and civil society to discuss the current situation in Ukraine, express our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as advocate our community's concerns.



UCCA continues to mobilize its resources to help secure support for Ukraine.

UCCA President, Andriy Futey traveled over half a dozen times to Ukraine to engage government officials and civil society leaders.



The dialogue throughout 2018 focused a variety of pressing issues, including Russia's continued aggression in Ukraine, strengthening US-Ukraine strategic partnership, support for MedReform in Ukraine, and the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor, to name a few.

And countless hours were spent
raising issues in Washington, DC and
uniting Ukrainian and U.S. officials



Advancing our message at the United Nations

As a founding and integral member of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), UCCA actively serves on the UWC's International Council on UN Affairs. UWC's Council, which was recognized in 2003 as a non-governmental organization by the United Nations Economic and Social Council with special consultative status, actively participates in various activities of the UN raising awareness on Ukraine-related issues. Coordinating efforts with such Ukrainian NGOs as World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, the Volya Institute for Contemporary Law and Society and the World Congress of Crimean Tatars, our efforts in 2018 focused on producing and supporting events to bring attention to: Mother Language Day "A Celebration of Sovereignty", Chernobyl, Holodomor and Russia's continued propaganda and fake news war in Ukraine.





Highlighting the impact of UCCA's global diplomacy is back-to-back annual meetings with President Poroshenko. For the fourth consecutive year, UCCA hosted and welcomed President Poroshenko during his annual trip to New York City to address the United Nations General Assembly. These meetings underscore UCCA's decades-long role in advancing support for the Ukrainian nation and strengthening US-Ukraine relations.

During his remarks, President Poroshenko thanked the Ukrainian American community for their strong support of the Ukrainian nation in their joint struggle for freedom and independence. Following his remarks, the Head of State awarded UCCA's President Andriy Futey with the Order of Merit for his significant contribution to strengthening US-Ukraine bilateral cooperation.



Promoting Ukraine through Alliances

At a time of great crisis for Ukraine, UCCA understands that a network of alliances is central to encouraging support and understanding for Ukraine. In 2018, UCCA spent countless hours forging closer alliances to promote Ukraine and issues important to the Ukrainian American community.

By broadening our constituencies, UCCA is able to foster a greater understanding of and stronger advocacy for Ukraine during this critical period for our homeland.

Throughout the year, UCCA's Washington DC public relations office, the **Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS)** worked hand-in-hand with the Central East European Coalition (CEEC) – an alliance of US-based ethnic organizations representing over 20 million Americans.



With the new 116 Congress, the CEEC issued the *116th Congress Policy Brief* to share concerns with the newly elected members of Congress. The Brief addressed such issues as: Continued Russian Aggression, Ukraine, NATO and Security in Central and Eastern Europe, Democracy, Human Rights, the Rule of Law, as well as Energy Security. UNIS' initiative with the CEEC exemplifies the fact that building strong alliances not only helps foster understanding, but strengthens our advocacy in support of Ukraine.

UCCA also strengthen its own ranks with the addition of two new member organizations - **Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine** (ODWU) and **Center for US-Ukrainian Relations** – giving our community a better opportunity to speak with one voice, which is crucial during these troubled times for Ukraine.



85th Anniversary of the Holodomor

Marking the culmination of the solemn 85th anniversary of the Holodomor - Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933 - was a defining moment for our community. UCCA is grateful to our branches and members who not only actively engaged their local governments in marking this historic anniversary with dozens of statewide Proclamations from Massachusetts to Missouri; but also supported a milestone in Holodomor recognition with the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resolutions. For the first time, Congress recognized the Holodomor as Genocide and underscored the deliberate and premeditated atrocities committed by the Soviet government against the Ukrainian nation.

UCCA also held its annual National Requiem Service at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City to commemorate the victims of the Holodomor.





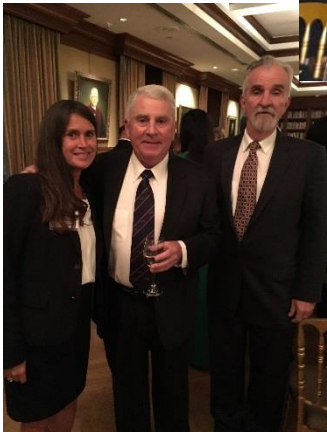
In addition to our advocacy work, UCCA marked the 85th solemn anniversary of one of Ukraine's greatest tragedies— the **Holodomor** with several national events.

To commemorate the forced starvation of up to 10 million Ukrainians, UCCA joined the Embassy of Ukraine in the USA and the US Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness at The Heritage Foundation in hosting a **Forum in Commemoration of the 85th Anniversary of the Holodomor – Genocide in Ukraine 1932-1933**. Guest speakers at the Washington, DC event included Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Pavlo Klimkin; Ukraine's Ambassador to the US, Valeriy Chaly; Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Wes Mitchell; Chairman of the US Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness Michael Sawkiw; Senator Robert Portman, Congressman Sander Levin and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

UCCA also participated in **Ukraine's Official Commemoration of the Holodomor**, which took place in Kyiv.

Showcasing Ukraine

In 2018, UCCA co-sponsored three vital forums showcasing Ukraine – focusing on Security Priorities; the pace of reforms; and, the 100th anniversary of Ukraine's attempt to establish a sovereign nation. By shining a spotlight on these three separate issues UCCA was able to provide a forum to address and freely exchange ideas on timely as well as historical issues that are important to the Ukrainian American community and critical to strengthening US-Ukraine relations.



Top & Left - Keynote speakers at 100th UNR Conference –Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine for European & Euro-Atlantic Integration; Ambassador Kurt Volker, U.S. Special Envoy for Ukraine Negotiations; and, General John Abizaid, former U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) commander and senior defense adviser to Ukraine's Ministry of Defense.



Connecting the Community with Ukraine

With its extensive contacts, UCCA is able to connect the community with government and civic leaders from Ukraine, enabling the community to receive firsthand knowledge of the current situation in their homeland. Over the course of 2018, UCCA had the honor of hosting a variety of meetings, including with:

Ukraine's Acting Minister of Health, Dr. Ulana Suprun



U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch



Championing Films that Inspire & Unlock the Truth

Understanding that film play an indispensable role in educating the masses, UCCA created the Film Committee following Ukraine's renewed independence. Since its inception in 1994, UCCA has co-produced four feature films that shed light on the true history of Ukraine long buried by the Soviets.

This year UCCA was proud to announce that their 4th film in partnership with Ukraine's premier director of historical dramas Oles Yanchuk, made its debut. In our latest co-production, *The Secret Diary of Simon Petliura*, Yanchuk unearths the truth of the Ukrainian People's Republic. In tackling this topic, the film takes an unprecedented look at the short-lived Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR), which declared an independent Ukraine in 1918, and the later assassination of the UNR's chairman, Symon Petliura in Paris in 1926, orchestrated by the Kremlin at the start of the Soviet occupation of Ukraine. The film debuted in Kyiv on September 5th as a joint production of UCCA, the Dovzhenko Film Studios, the Ukrainian State Film Agency & Ukraine's Ministry of Culture.



In addition to co-producing films, UCCA has lent its support to several other endeavors. As a supporter of *Julia Blue*, a love story that humanizes and brings awareness to Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, UCCA is immensely proud of all the awards the film and its Director Roxy Toporowych earned in 2018.



Driving the Global Ukrainian Community

As an integral member of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), UCCA actively participated in the many global community initiatives.

On November 26th & 27 248 delegates from 26 countries gathered in Kyiv to review the work of the UWC, and to deliberate and develop plans for the future. The focus of the UWC's XI Congress was strengthening Ukrainian statehood in light of Russia's threat to Ukraine and the entire world. On the concluding day of the XI Congress, delegates elected their new leadership, including: President Paul Grod; First Vice President Stefan Romaniw; Second Vice President Anna Kisil; and Third Vice President Andriy Futey. The Executive Committee, Board of Directors and an Advisory Committee were also elected and plans for the next five years adopted. UCCA congratulates the U.S. recipients - Dr. Larissa Kyj, President of UUARC & Congressman Sander Levin - for receiving UWC's highest accolade, the St. Volodymyr Medal.



Aiding Ukraine to right historical wrongs

Thanks to the generous donations from the Ukrainian American community, UCCA's **Council on Aid to Ukrainians (CAU)** substantially supported a humanitarian project conducted by the Ukrainian non-governmental organization "LEGAL CONTROL."

The aim of the project, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, is to find information on Ukrainian prisoners who underwent the Soviet punitive system of forced "treatment" in a psychiatric hospital in the city of Dnipro.

In 1968, in the city of Dnipropetrovsk (now Dnipro), a special psychiatric hospital was set up by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR, where well-known human rights activists became victims of violent psychiatry. In those days, everything that was happening at the hospital was a state secret. In independent Ukraine, this institution is maintained as the Ukrainian Psychiatric Hospital under strict supervision of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

The project envisages processing more than 12 thousand cases of patient prisoners and their subsequent transfer to the National Archives of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance for further storage and processing.



Importance of Communication... sharing our positions & policies

For UCCA, whether we are communicating with our membership, small groups of policymakers or the general public - whether focusing on Russia's continued aggression in Ukraine or the 85th Anniversary of the Holodomor our charge is the same: to educate and inform the public about the true situation in Ukraine, and seek that the truth is served.



From Sea to Shining Sea...

An indelible factor of UCCA's success is the work of its members and branches across the United States. These committed individuals volunteer thousands of hours to help educate the public about the true state of affairs in Ukraine and the important role the Ukrainian American community plays in the U.S.



Throughout 2018, hundreds of events were organized and dozens of meetings were held, all for the sake of supporting Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, marking important dates in Ukraine's history and celebrating our unique Ukrainian heritage.

The Scope & Breathe of UCCA

UCCA unites over 20 national Ukrainian-American organizations under one umbrella & the UCCA National Council, consisting of representatives of UCCA local Branches, delegates of the main religious faiths in the United States, the Chairman of the Educational Council, Editor-in-Chief of "The Ukrainian Quarterly", as well as the following fraternal, educational, youth, veteran, religious, cultural, social and humanitarian organizations:



Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation
Ukrainian Human Rights Committee
``Self-Reliance`` Association of American Ukrainians

The seal of the Ukrainian American Congress is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features a blue outer ring with the text "UKRAINIAN CONGRESS OF AMERICA" in white. Inside the ring is a yellow shield with a blue Ukrainian trident. The shield is flanked by two blue figures, possibly representing Ukrainian Cossacks, holding a banner.

For more than three-quarters of a century, we have seen remarkable changes take hold in Ukraine but we have also been faced with many trials and tribulations. Yet, each time, UCCA has risen to the challenge. At every milestone we have sought to reaffirm our commitment to the forefathers of UCCA, representing the Ukrainian American community with utmost vigor and championing the cause of freedom and democracy for our ancestral homeland Ukraine.

2019 will be no different. As Russia's aggression in Ukraine and its illegal occupation of Crimea enters its 5th year, the need for UCCA's work has never been greater.

UCCA wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to all our supporters for their continued support and generosity, and respectfully ask for your continued cooperation in what promises to be an extraordinary, albeit difficult year ahead.

Slava Ukrainyii!

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