READ: Ukraine needs more US support to win its fight for freedom

By Cory Gardner, Andrew J. Futey

President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Andrew J. Futey, and former Colorado Senator Cory Gardner drafted a roadmap for continued US support of Ukraine this week, which was published by the Atlantic Council. The article calls for the development of a plan for long-term military and economic support for Ukraine.
stop impeding Ukraine’s sovereignty and economic viability. Recognizing this reality, the Biden administration must work with Congress to set up a Ukraine support fund that will hopefully resemble our long-standing efforts to help key global allies like Israel. While the annual dollar amount may vary and would naturally be subject to Congressional procedures and debates, we believe that with the strong support of the Ukrainian-American community, it will have strong bipartisan backing and lasting support.”
UCCA National Council Sets Ambitious Goal of Community Mobilization

On August 14, 2022, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of nearly 2 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, hosted a virtual meeting of UCCA’s National Council – Krayova Rada. The purpose of biannual meeting, held over the Zoom video and audio conferencing platform, was to discuss the past six months of Ukrainian diaspora activism, and the timely reporting of efforts by the National Office, the Ukrainian National Information Service bureau in Washington, D.C., and the various elected subcommittees of the National Council, as well as to debate the best use of the community’s combined resources in the near future.

Following two previous votes by the National Council in 2020 and 2021 to adjust the convening of the planned XXIII Congress of Ukrainians in America during the global Covid-19 pandemic, the National Council voted in the affirmative on August 14 to return the scheduling of its convention back in line with the quadrennial tradition stated in UCCA’s bylaws, “coinciding with U.S. Presidential election years, at a place and time approved by UCCA’s National Council.” As previously voiced during the voting and discussion in 2020 and 2021, UCCA President Andriy Futey reiterated at the August 14 meeting that within the proposal by the Presidium of the Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America to not hold a convention prior to 2024, remains the agreement that the current slate of Executive Board members will remain in their current position until the 2024 convention, and the term of the current UCCA President will end at the 2024 convention.

In lieu of hastily scheduling an extraordinary convention before 2024, the National Council discussed the scheduling of several major events and initiatives
to close out 2022, as the Ukrainian American community has mobilized as never before in response to the renewed attempts at Genocide against the Ukrainian homeland:

- UCCA Local Branches will organize and present to their fellow National Council delegates a summary of their of fundraising activities in their respective regions throughout the first 6 months since Russia’s full-fledged war commenced on February;

- UCCA’s biannual GOTV campaign will encourage Ukrainian Americans to register to vote in the mid-term elections, and show up at their polling places on Election Day to demonstrate their civic commitment;

- Following the successful summer efforts of local communities asking for and receiving state and local proclamations on the occasion of Ukraine’s Anniversary of Renewed Independence, UCCA will mobilize our local communities this Fall to advocate for local, state and federal proclamations and/or resolutions recognizing the 90th anniversary of Ukraine’s Holodomor, the Famine Genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians in 1932-33;

- UCCA will take part in the mid-September advocacy webinar by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) in Washington, D.C., which UCCA co-founded and which coordinates the efforts of national ethnic organizations representing 20 million Americans – "Black Sea Security - Why Is It Important for U.S. Geopolitical Objectives";

- UCCA will once again work to support Ukraine’s initiatives surrounding the high-level General Debates at the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City;

- UCCA will once again co-host the annual Ukrainian Historical Encounters conference in New York City on September 24 – “The Ukrainian Experience in 1942 – A 80th Year Retrospective”;

- UCCA will co-host a half-day briefing session on Capitol Hill on Russian war crimes as part of the Syrian Ukraine Network (SUN);

- UCCA will once again co-host the annual UA Quest For Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable in Washington, D.C., on October 19;

- UCCA’s Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) bureau in Washington, D.C., will host another Ukrainian Days of Advocacy in Washington, D.C., following the mid-term elections on November 8, as the 117th United States Congress will need to be reminded to act forcefully in its closing weeks in support of Ukraine before the 118th Congress is sworn in on January 3, 2023;

- This November, UCCA local branches will once again organize local, state and national commemorations of the 90th anniversary of Ukraine’s Holodomor, the Famine Genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians in 1932-33, with major events across the country culminating in UCCA’s National Commemoration at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City on November 19;

- UCCA National Council delegates plan to gather in person before the end of the year to plan the start of 2023, which will include the one-year anniversary since the start of Russia’s full-fledged war commenced on February 24 of this year.
Local Branches also voiced their continued desire to aid the Ukrainian homeland moving forward.

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Amidst the reporting to the National Council by delegates of UCCA Member Organizations and Local Branches, UCCA President Andriy Futey welcomed the delegate from one of UCCA’s newest Local Branches – UCCA in Charlotte, NC – as well as the new leadership of one of UCCA’s co-founding member organizations, the Ukrainian National Association (UNA). In addition to exchanging words of welcome with UNA President Roman Himiak, the National Council was reminded of the upcoming elections in 2022 within UCCA Member Organizations the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV), the Organization for Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU) and the Women’s Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms of Ukraine (WADFFU).

At the conclusion of the meeting, all delegates to UCCA’s National Council were reminded of the commemorative events organized by the National Committee for the Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and the 75th anniversary since UPA executed its final directive – it’s “Great Raid” - to spread documentary source material throughout the nations of Western Europe about Ukraine’s heroic struggle for independence. Scheduled for October 15 and 16, the commemorations will honor the current heroes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, as they are inspired by the example of the heroes of UPA.
OBSERVANCE OF
Independence Day of Ukraine
BOSTON CITY HALL PLAZA

Wednesday, August 24, 2022
starting at 12:00 PM

UA

Ukrainian Independence Day

Richard J. Daley Center
50 W. Washington Street
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