

UWC LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH UKRAINE'S NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

On March 31, UWC leadership met with the newly appointed Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States of America, Ms. Oksana Markarova. UWC was represented by President Paul Grod, First Vice President Stefan Romaniw, UWC Vice President and President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) Andriy Futey, UWC Vice President and UCCA Representative to UWC's Board of Directors Marta Farion, UCCA Executive Vice President and Director of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) Michael Sawkiw, Chair of UWC's Foreign Policy Council Ambassador Roman Waschuk, Chair of UWC's Mission to the United Nations Andrij Dobriansky, Chair Lenna Koszarny and Director Natalia Nemyliwska of UWC's Economic Prosperity and Investment Committee (EPIC), and the Directors of UWC's Kyiv and Toronto Offices.

In a candid discussion, the parties raised a number of important issues, including: Joint efforts and initiatives to support Ukraine in countering Russia's military aggression; support of Ukraine in reforming its key sectors and areas; increase of political, cultural and economic cooperation between Ukraine and the US; the ambassador's priorities in a new role and development of cooperation with the Ukrainian diaspora; joint efforts to establish multilateral cooperation in Washington, D.C., to secure the best representation of Ukrainian interests at all levels; and, preparations for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

The Ambassador also thanked the UWC and all Ukrainians abroad for their support and active work in the interests of Ukraine. "In my new position, I plan to be a very open ambassador and will do everything possible to ensure proactive and better communication. I also plan to actively engage with the Ukrainian community," stated Ms. Markarova. According to Ambassador Markarova, strengthening of political, security, economic and humanitarian cooperation with the US will be her priorities in Washington, D.C.



"As the representative organization of 1.5 million Ukrainian Americans, we look forward to a constructive working relationship which will benefit our community and increase the Strategic Partnership between the United States and Ukraine. We welcome you and pledge our support," stated Andriy Futey, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Paul Grod, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, greeted Ambassador Markarova on her diplomatic posting and wished her success in implementing her stated priorities. "UWC and all Ukrainian American organizations stand ready to collaborate. Your success is our success," stated Paul Grod.

UCCA CHALLENGES POTENTIAL APPOINTMENT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

On April 10, the website Axios.com, citing an anonymous source, reported that Matthew Rojansky, head of the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute, was being considered for Russia director on the White House National Security Council (NSC).

Following confirmation that this potential appointment had been debated by the NSC "for at least several weeks," UCCA sent a letter dated April 12 to US President Joe Biden (cc'ed to Secretary of State Antony Blinken), in which it stated our community's dismay given Rojansky's belief that Ukraine is expendable to secure closer US-Russia relations.

The letter urged President Biden to "reject Mr. Rojansky's appointment." Citing "recent Russian aggressive actions towards Ukraine," the letter also raised the prospect of the United States sending the wrong message "not only to our strategic partner Ukraine but also to reformers in Russia and the entire world" in appointing someone with Mr. Rojansky's history of incendiary comments over the years just one step below the current acting senior director of the NSC.

UCCA's letter reiterated that the Ukrainian American community looks forward to a productive and dynamic dialogue with the White House and members of the Administration, and respectfully requested an opportunity to meet (virtually) to address these and other matters of immediate concern.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL DISASTER

On April 26, 1986, a tragedy of unspeakable magnitude occurred at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant in Northern Ukraine. At 1:23 AM, an explosion at the plant blew the concrete roof off Reactor #4 spewing huge amounts of toxic radioactive particles into the atmosphere. Other than immediate attempts by Chornobyl workers to put out the fire caused by the explosion, there was no official government reaction to this catastrophe – no announcements were made, no warnings given – nothing that showed the slightest concern for the population of Ukraine, or for the global community in general. In a deliberate act of what can only be seen as negligence and disregard for the safety of millions, Soviet authorities remained silent.

In the meantime, the people of Ukraine were completely unaware of the impending danger to their lives. Soviet authorities did not initiate evacuations from the immediate area surrounding Chornobyl until 36 hours following the explosion. It was only after high amounts of radioactivity were detected over parts of Europe and after Scandinavian experts determined that the source was Ukraine, did the Kremlin come forward to announce that an accident had occurred at Chornobyl, and that Moscow was handling the situation. Their reaction was hardly appropriate to the magnitude of the situation. And as such, five days after the catastrophe, thousands of unsuspecting citizens, many of them children, paraded in the streets of Kyiv, only 60 miles south of Chornobyl, in celebration of May Day, oblivious to the silent and invisible danger that had infiltrated their city.

On this 35th anniversary we remember those who perished in this catastrophe, and those who survived. We honor the hundreds of emergency workers who responded to the catastrophe; the hundreds of thousands who were uprooted from their homes; and the millions who suffered and continue to suffer from health issues related to Chornobyl.

Today, as we mark this solemn anniversary, UCCA reaffirms its resolve to do our part in ensuring that the ongoing needs of the victims of this tragedy in Ukraine are not forgotten. We will continue to condemn all acts of negligence towards mankind such as occurred at Chornobyl in 1986. In this way, we hope to ensure that the victims of this tragedy are never forgotten and that such callous acts of inhumanity are never repeated again.

UCCA THANKFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

UCCA would like to thank and acknowledge the generous donations received in response to our 2020 End of Year Appeal in support of the work of UCCA.*

\$500

Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (Newark Office),
Myroslawa Nalywajko, Anonymous Donor

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Vladimir Kowaliwskyj

UCCA would also like to thank all those that donated through our UCCA Facebook Page, AmazonSmile and through Network for Good.

**donations received between February 9-28, 2021.*

TREE PLANTING IN FLORIDA

On Saturday, April 10, the Rotary Club of North Port, FL, and Rotary International in Lviv, Ukraine, along with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida, Post 40 of the Ukrainian American Veterans, the North Port Men's Club, the Mayor of North Port and City Commissioners participated in Ukraine's "Greening the Planet" Global Initiative, by planting a tree at the St. Andrew's Ukrainian Religious and Cultural Center in North Port, Florida.



One tree at a time!