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UCCA BULLETIN



August 2016 ...Our 76th Year of Service to the Community

UCCA WORKS WITH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES

Over the past several months, the UCCA has reached out, as in years past to both the Republican and the Democratic National Committees in advance of November's presidential elections. On behalf of the Ukrainian American community, the UCCA communicated directly with both the Republican and Democratic campaigns in its desire to aid the Ukrainian nation, in accordance with the stated mission of our organization. UCCA also met with representatives tasked with drafting their respective party platforms, and also submitted testimony for consideration by platform committees on both sides of the political aisle, which touched upon:

- Stipulating an explicit commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity;
- Maintaining and strengthening economic sanctions against the Russian Federation;
- Rejecting any form of recognition of Russian rule over Crimea in the form of a statutory doctrine of non-recognition;
- Demanding the immediate withdrawal of covert and overt Russian forces and equipment from Ukraine;
- Expanding direct military assistance to Ukraine, including defensive arms and additional military training programs;
- Continuing NATO's "Open Door" policy for membership, and strengthening America's commitment to its allies;
- Maintaining funding for educational, professional and democracy-building programs to aid Ukraine's civil society in rooting out corruption;
- Expanding the Visa Waiver Program and reforming Immigration Regulation;
- And additional points regarding US trade and investment in Ukraine, as well as programs promoting energy independence from Russia.

The UCCA, a non-partisan organization, has always maintained neutrality in politics, leaving it up to its members to choose whichever party they prefer to support. As a united voice for our community, however, we have consistently taken a unanimous stand in advocating for Ukraine's freedom and independence. Therefore, the UCCA appeals to all of its members to be active participants in American political life, regardless of their political affiliation. In an increasingly interconnected and economically interdependent world, American political parties should be prevailed upon to always endorse political planks which take the lead in promoting international norms, defending basic human rights and freedoms, deterring foreign aggression, supporting the territorial integrity of our allies, and charting a course of geopolitical stability in the best interests of the United States.

#SUPPORTUKRAINE!

Earlier this year, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington DC public affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), initiated the #SUPPORT UKRAINE! campaign to bring more attention to the situation in Ukraine, the plight of Ukrainians enduring the ravages of war in Eastern Ukraine, and those who are under constant brutal measures in Russia-occupied Crimea. As part of this campaign, UCCA is calling upon the Ukrainian American community to meet with their Members of Congress in your local districts during the month of August. Such meetings provide a unique opportunity to bring attention to issues of concern regarding U.S.-Ukraine relations and relevant factors of U.S. security interests in the Central and East European region to your elected officials. Below please find a checklist infographic of questions and concerns to raise with your representatives. Please use the infographic to engage in a discussion with your official and request a written statement in support of our issues.

#SupportUkraine
Checklist for Ukrainian American Voters

Does My Candidate Support:

- the **non-negotiability** of the territorial integrity of Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, including Crimea
- Demanding the **immediate withdrawal** of covert and overt Russian forces and equipment from Ukraine
- The "**Open Door**" policy for eventual **NATO** membership for Ukraine.
- Maintaining and strengthening economic **sanctions** against Russia until it fully complies with its international obligations.
- Enhancing the U.S.-Ukraine **Strategic Partnership**.

for more info:
facebook.com/ucca.org or ucca.org

25 YEARS OF RENEWED INDEPENDENCE

August 24th will mark 25 years since the people of Ukraine proclaimed an end to centuries of bondage, and resolutely vowed to protect their new democracy, while charting a future course towards closer European integration. Sadly, this historic anniversary is overshadowed by the knowledge that for the past 2 years the people of Ukraine have been fighting to defend their nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity from military, economic, cyber and information warfare – or hybrid war - by Vladimir Putin's Russia...

Despite overwhelming odds, Ukraine's brave new generation of patriots has risen to the challenge of countering Putin's machinations, fighting both on the battlefield for their freedom, as well as against corrupted officials for much needed social and economic reforms in the name of dignity for all. We stand united with those maintaining an heroic defense against a brutal aggressor in a life and death struggle for their nation's very survival.

Throughout this struggle, strong U.S. support for Ukraine will remain critically important now and in the coming years, especially in the process of securing Ukraine's borders from continued violations from foreign occupiers. The UCCA... looks to the United States to not only live up to its public and binding security guarantees to Ukraine, but to further develop our shared 20-year military relationship, with Ukraine's record as the only non-NATO partner nation to have contributed actively to all NATO-led operations and missions for the past two decades. We should also encourage the U.S. to maintain funding for educational, professional and cultural exchange programs to further aid Ukraine's emergent civil society as a backstop against proxy or direct intervention by foreign aggressors.

At a time when Ukrainians should be celebrating the 25th anniversary of their independence, many cannot help but think of their friends and neighbors illegally held captive by the Russia Federation... Ukrainians around the world stand united to give voice to those facing brutal repression in the areas of Ukraine currently illegally occupied by Russian forces, that has not only manifested itself in imprisonment, but in the all too common "disappearance" of those deemed to be trouble-makers, be they activists, journalists, or a beset upon minority, such as the indigenous Crimean Tatars.

Perseverance in the face of tyranny exemplifies the best of our nations' common history, and it has made Ukrainians into who we are today - fiercely independent, loyal to their country, and passionate about freedom. Let us pause on this historic anniversary to honor the sacrifice of those on the frontlines of democracy, and hail them with glory, as they remind us of the true price of freedom.

Slava Ukrayini! Heroyam Slava!

To read the full statement, visit www.ucca.org

UCCA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UWC ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND THE IV WORLD FORUM OF UKRAINIANS

UCCA Executive Board members will be traveling to Ukraine to participate in the Ukrainian World Congress' Annual General Meeting. In addition to addressing internal matters, the UWC will host 5 roundtables addressing such topics as: Coordinating support for Ukraine; UWC humanitarian initiatives to help Ukraine; promoting a positive image of Ukraine; commemorating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the UWC; and, promoting economic development of Ukraine;

Prior to the UWC's meeting UCCA members will also attend the IV World Forum of Ukrainians, which will take place in Kyiv on August 20-21st. The UCCA will report on its work since the last Forum, which took place in 2011.

During their stay in Ukraine, the UCCA will be present at the official celebrations marking Ukraine's 25th anniversary of renewed independence.

XXII CONGRESS OF UKRAINIAN AMERICANS UPDATE

DELEGATE REGISTRATION- Registration packets have been sent to all UCCA member organizations and branches. The registration fee for the Congress is \$125, which includes Friday's Meet and Greet reception, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, Saturday Evening's Gala Banquet, and all materials related to the Convention.

ACCOMMODATIONS- A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn, located at 20 Waterchase Drive, Rocky Hill CT, and are available for delegates and guests at the discounted rate of \$125.35/per night (includes tax) for a room with 2 double beds. Breakfast (6AM-10AM) is included in the room rate. The code for the discounted rate is – "UCA". Reservations must be made by August 23, 2016. To reserve your room, please call the hotel directly at (860) 563-7877.

BANQUET -The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford and the Greater Hartford Council of Ukrainian American Organizations, in honor of the XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America, cordially invite you to the 25th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence Day Banquet, being held on Saturday, September 24, 2016 starting at 6pm at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 961 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford CT. Donation: \$50 per person. For more information, please contact the UCCA National Office.