

UCCA SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION

The UCCA concluded its International Election Observer Mission which monitored the early parliamentary elections in Ukraine held on October 26, 2014.

The UCCA Mission was made up of 105 officially registered observers who volunteered their time and money to participate in our Observation Mission.

Prior to the elections the UCCA held a comprehensive all-day training session for their observers during which they were briefed on how best to serve as monitors. The session also instructed the observers on how to utilize the first of its kind on-line reporting system, which enables the UCCA to have real-time information on Election Day.



R to L: Andrij Futey, UCCA Executive VP and Co-Chair of Mission; Tamara Olexy, UCCA President and Co-Chair of Mission; Reno Domenico, UCCA Chief Observer.

The UCCA deployed its observers to monitor the parliamentary elections in 9 oblasts of Ukraine as well as at diplomatic posts in the United States and Dublin.

The UCCA would like to express its sincere gratitude to all of our observers for their commitment to Ukraine's Democracy. A special thank you goes out to Reno Domenico, Chief Observer & Odesa Team Leader; Judge Bohdan Futey, UCCA's Legal Advisor; Askold Lozynskyy, Kharkiv Team Leader; Adrian Olearchyk, Mykolaiv Team Leader; Darka Soloducha, Zaporizhzhya Team Leader; Marta Kolomayets, Zhytomyr Team Leader; and Vassyl & Roksolana Lonchyna, Dnipropetrovsk Team Leaders. The UCCA would also like to thank its Kyiv Staff – Viktoria Hubska and Iryna Mykolayenko and its NYC Staff - Liza Donovan and Lesia Orach; without their commitment, the observer mission would not have come to fruition!

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: UKRAINE CONTINUES ITS DEMOCRATIC PATH WITH FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America's International Election Observer Mission, which observed the elections in nine regions of Ukraine, including: Dnipropetrovsk, Khakhiv, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhya and Zhytomyr, as well as at diplomatic posts in the United States and Dublin – affirms that the October 26th early parliamentary elections met international standards for free and fair elections that accurately reflects the will of Ukraine's electorate.

The UCCA International Election Observer Mission based its preliminary statement on the direct observation of both the pre-election campaign period as well as on Election Day. Prior to the October 26th early elections, the UCCA long-term observers did not see any evidence of the use of administrative resources, and noted that candidates and political parties had access to the mass media, in contrast to the previous parliamentary elections.

The UCCA's 105 short-term election observers visited close over 300 polling sites in urban, suburban and rural areas, and despite minor infractions deemed that the elections were conducted in a peaceful, transparent and democratic manner.

The UCCA would like to commend the efforts of Ukraine's Central Election Commission to provide every opportunity for Ukraine's electorate to cast a ballot. Despite the ongoing war in the East and efforts by the Russian-backed terrorists to disrupt the vote in Donetsk and Luhansk, we understand that less than 10% of Ukrainians were prevented from exercising their right to vote.

The UCCA hopes that the newly-elected members of the Verkhovna Rada form a coalition government as soon as possible so that the legislators can institute the much needed reforms to end the endemic corruption, stabilize the situation and ensure Ukraine's continued EuroAtlantic integration.

And finally, the UCCA would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all of our International Election Observers for volunteering their time and money to participate in our Mission. Their commitment to Ukraine and her democratic process is greatly appreciated.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) – is a not-for-profit organization representing the interests of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent for almost 75 years. As one of the few non-governmental organizations, and the only Ukrainian American community organizations, registered with Ukraine's Central Election Commission, the UCCA has been actively involved in hosting delegations of International Election Observers to Ukraine since 1991.

UNPRECEDENTED FOURTH "UKRAINIAN DAYS" TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington public affairs bureau of the UCCA is hosting the fourth "Ukrainian Days" of 2014 in our nation's capital, to encourage Members of Congress to support military assistance to Ukraine.

This year's unprecedented fourth "Ukrainian Day" advocacy event will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, **November 18-19, 2014**.

This "Ukrainian Days" event is extremely important as it will be our last opportunity in the 113th Congress to focus on military assistance to Ukraine. Providing Ukraine with military assistance will help it to defend its independence against Putin and the Russian-backed terrorists in eastern Ukraine. Our goal in November will be to seek support for Ukraine's most pressing need - military assistance!

The "Ukrainian Days" program will also feature a briefing session conducted by experts on the importance of militarily assisting Ukraine. An evening reception will be held to honor individuals who have contributed to the betterment of U.S.-Ukraine relations, during which the "Friend of UNIS Award" will be bestowed upon the recipients in attendance.

The two-day advocacy program is supported by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). As a founding member of the CEEC, the UCCA works in tandem with the CEEC to advance U.S. foreign policy issues in Central and East Europe. The "Ukrainian Days" advocacy event will provide members of the Ukrainian American community an opportunity to meet with other ethnic community members and advocate issues of mutual interest.

Please **SAVE THE DATES** of **November 18-19th** and join us in Washington, DC for our fourth and critical "Ukrainian Days" advocacy event.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact UNIS at [202 547-0018](tel:2025470018), or by e-mail at unis@ucca.org.

Looking forward to seeing you in Washington in November!

UCCA PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HOLD MEETINGS IN KYIV

During their one-week stay in Ukraine to co-chair the UCCA's International Election Observer Mission, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy and Executive Vice President, Andriy Futey, held several high-level meetings to discuss the current situation in Ukraine including the ongoing war in the East of the country and the upcoming parliamentary elections.

UCCA had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Geoffrey Pyatt; Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk; Representatives of the Security Services of Ukraine; Members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and

The UCCA also spoke with several Ukrainian as well as foreign journalists covering the elections, including NPR, and The Christian Science Monitor.

ORDER YOUR UCCA CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFTS

Christmas is quickly approaching and the UCCA has several items for your holiday shopping needs.

A variety of colorful *Ukrainian Christmas Cards* (artwork by Myroslawa Stojko) - \$1/each or \$10 for 12.



Zoloty Pavuchok – a beautifully illustrated children's Christmas story in the Ukrainian language - \$10/copy.

And the gift that keeps on giving for only \$50/year – a subscription to the English language scholarly journal *The Ukrainian Quarterly*.

To place an order please send a check/money order to the UCCA National Office or contact us by phone or email.

All prices listed include shipping and handling.