

UCCA MEETS WITH CONGRESSMAN FRANK PALLONE

On January 19, representatives of the Ukrainian community met with Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) at his New Brunswick offices. Present at the meeting were Roma Lisovich and Yuriy Symczyk from the Ukrainian National Association, Walter Zaryckyj of the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, and Andriy Dobriansky from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Representative Pallone's district encompasses some areas of New Jersey populated by Ukrainians for decades, including the cities of Perth Amboy, Edison and New Brunswick. Already familiar with several institutions, he was surprised to hear about a few churches and organizations that he had not yet visited and promised to correct that oversight. This was the first such meeting organized since the Congressman's visit to Kyiv over the summer with fellow members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC), as well as the first since his rise to the position of Ranking Member on the powerful Energy Committee in Congress. Rep. Pallone discussed the intersection of both the interests of those aiding Ukraine and the incredible potential for energy and business investment in Ukraine going forward. Increased defense cooperation was also on his mind as well, as the lethal defensive weapons authorized by Congress in 2014 which have yet to be delivered to Ukraine. A proud member of the CUC, we look forward to Representative Pallone's remarks on the floor throughout the year in recognition of Ukraine.

Following the meeting the Congressman tweeted:



Rep. Frank

Pallone @FrankPallone [Jan 19](#)

Met w representatives of the Ukrainian American community at New Brunswick office to discuss increased economic and defense cooperation.

UCCA BIDS FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR SERGEYEV

On January 10th, the UCCA hosted a luncheon to bid Ukraine's Ambassador to the UN, Yuriy Sergeyev and his wife Dr. Nataliya Ivashyna farewell. The luncheon, held at the East Village Ukrainian Restaurant, enabled community leaders to express their gratitude to Ambassador Sergeyev for his eight years of service and cooperation.

Ambassador Sergeyev, while graciously thanking the community, was visibly moved by all those in attendance.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, UCCA President Tamara Olexy, thanked Ambassador Sergeyev for honorably defending Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the United Nations, especially during these past two years, the most difficult in Ukraine's modern history. She also expressed the community's gratitude for the years of cooperation with the community over the course of his tenure as Ukraine's Ambassador to the UN.



Ukrainian Community leaders with Amb. Sergeyev and his wife Nataliya

The UCCA would like to thank the following credit unions for their support: Self Reliance (NY) FCU, SUMA Yonkers FCU, Selfreliance Ukrainian American FCU and the Ukrainian National FCU.

UCCA RESPONDS TO CHARACTERIZATION OF UKRAINE DURING STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

In his final State of the Union address, President Obama got it wrong when it came to Ukraine. Speaking before the annual joint session of Congress, the President declared, "Even as their economy severely contracts, Russia is pouring resources in to prop up Ukraine and Syria -- client states that they saw slipping away from their orbit," when summarizing the United States' national priorities. When it came time to mention Ukraine, a long-time strategic partner of the U.S., President Obama once again demonstrated a shocking ignorance of foreign policy hotspots in his biggest address to the nation.

The UCCA, the largest representation of Ukrainians in America, is outraged by the description of Ukraine used in the State of the Union address. To be clear, Russia is NOT propping up Ukraine; the Russian Federation is destabilizing Ukraine. Nor did Ukraine "slip away from Russia's orbit"; the people of Ukraine made up their own minds with regard to national policy, including their open and democratic decision to demand basic human rights, journalistic and economic freedoms and closer integration with Europe during the Revolution of Dignity.

Signaling this administration's lack of understanding of geopolitics, this major address, in the planning since November of last year and intended as a summary of the President's goals in his last year in office, omitted references to many international affairs, slighted Ukraine in the manner quoted above, and focused instead on petty political squabbles. On the very anniversary of the *Sausio įvykiai*, when the Soviet army was mobilized to seize state institutions in Lithuania following its declared independence, and ordinary citizens placed themselves in harm's way to defend their freedoms, the President failed to raise the level of political discourse to the leading role America has demonstrated time and again throughout its history.

The President also made a second, fleeting mention of Ukraine, this time praising his limited actions in regards to Ukraine by stating, "When we help Ukraine defend its democracy, or Colombia resolve a decades-long war, that strengthens the international order we depend upon." According to the NY Times, 3.2 million Ukrainians now live amid destruction or are in dire need of humanitarian aid this winter. Can we really claim to have done all that we could to aid Ukraine in its hour of need?

The U.S., as the bastion of democracy in the free world, and the President, as its Executive, must take the lead in promoting international norms, defending basic human rights and freedoms, and charting a course of geopolitical stability. The President could start by following Congress' lead: publicly calling for the release of Russia's political prisoners, including Iraq veteran First Lieutenant Nadiya Savchenko, and releasing the authorized military aid to Ukraine's armed forces.

UCCA CONGRATULATES BISHOP CHOMNYCKY

On the tenth anniversary of his Episcopal Ministry as Bishop of Stamford, Bishop Paul Chomnycky received a congratulatory letter from the UCCA, which read in part:

"On behalf of the UCCA... please accept our sincere congratulations on the occasion of your Jubilee - the 10th anniversary of your ministry as Bishop of Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

During your service... particularly in Stamford Eparchy... we appreciate your devoted work for the good of the Ukrainian community in America. We are especially grateful for Your continued support and participation in the annual Requiem Service at St. Patrick's Cathedral in memory of victims of Holodomor-Genocide in Ukraine in 1932-1933.

We ask the Almighty that He give you health and strength to continue your work for the glory of God, for the good of our community and Ukraine for many, many years..."

UCCA THANKS DONORS OF CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The UCCA would like to sincerely thank all of its supporters. So far this year's Christmas Appeal has generated a very positive response from our members and friends, and for this we are extremely grateful.

The Christmas Appeal (or "Koliada") is the UCCA's annual fundraising appeal to help support the multifaceted work of our umbrella organization. For those who have not yet donated, we urge you to consider making a donation, to support the work of the UCCA during this critical time for Ukraine. Together, we must remain committed to a democratic Ukraine and a strong and vibrant Ukrainian American community.

THANK YOU!