UCCA President Holds high-level meetings in Kyiv

The weeks of January 22nd and 29th UCCA President, Andriy Futey held a series of high-level meetings in Ukraine’s capital. During his working visit to Kyiv, he met with Prime Minister Groysman, Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, Acting Minister of Health Dr. Ulana Suprun, Minister of Internal Affairs Arsen Avakov, Minister of Culture Yevhen Nyshchuk, Minister of Education Liliya Hrynevych, Head of the Security Service of Ukraine Vasyl Hrytsak, Senior Officials in the Administration of the President of Ukraine, Member of Parliament Andriy Levus, Head of the Svoboda Party Oleh Tyahnybok, former Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk, the Mayor of Ternopil Serhiy Nadal, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine George Kent, high-ranking religious hierarchy and representatives of various NGOs. During his meetings, he discussed Russia’s continuing hybrid war against Ukraine, the need to strengthen sanctions against Russia until it de-occupies Crimea and fully removes its military and weapons from eastern Ukraine, and the idea of a UN peacekeeping mission in Donbas. Futey also devoted particular attention to the need to implement comprehensive reforms to combat corruption and institute judicial reforms.

He also discussed in detail the need for swift implementation of the recently passed and signed into law by President Poroshenko Medical reform legislation. The issue of Ukrainian-Polish relations was discussed throughout his meetings. Of outmost importance was to ensure a coordinated message and continued strategy on strengthening the US-Ukraine strategic partnership.

While in Kyiv, Andriy also held a very productive meeting with Ksana Nechyporenko, Director of GoGlobal in Ukraine. The initiative of the social organization GoGlobal is aimed at promoting foreign languages (English) learning and development of a volunteer movement in Ukraine, as well as facilitating intercultural dialogue and public diplomacy. UCCA is a partner organization of GoGlobal and is calling on Ukrainian-Americans to volunteer this summer and teach English to some 80,000 Ukrainian schoolchildren.

Minister Hrynevych, thanked UCCA for supporting the volunteer initiative and stressed the importance of learning the English language and the impact that volunteers can have on the young generations in Ukraine. With Minister Nyshchuk, Futey discussed the planning of the 100th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, and their proposed tour in the Fall of this year. He also met with family members of the Nebesnya Sotnya (Heavenly Hundred) to hear their concerns and issues.

In addition to his meetings, on January 23rd, Andriy Futey had the honor to extend warmest birthday greetings on behalf of UCCA and the Ukrainian-American community to Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate. Blessed 89th Birthday!

On January 29th, Futey attended a solemn Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Kruty with President Poroshenko and other Ukrainian government officials at the Kruty Memorial at Askolda Mohyla. Along with President Poroshenko, he laid flowers on behalf of the Ukrainian-American community for the fallen heroes, and paid his respects at the grave of Mark Paslawsky.

UCCA External Affairs Committee member Borys Potapenko and Head of the Washington DC of CUSUR Mykola Hryckowian participated in some of the discussions held in Kyiv.

On January 29th, Ukrainians around the world will be marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Kruty.

This battle marked the valiant attempt of Ukrainian students to stop the Bolshevik onslaught against Ukrainian independence in 1918. As Bolshevik forces, numbering approximately 4000 men, advanced toward Kyiv, a small Ukrainian National Republic unit of approximately 400 was hastily organized and sent to the front - a small railroad connection approximately 80 miles northeast of Kyiv. The unit consisted mainly of the Student Battalion (Kurin) of Sich Riflemen, a unit of the Khmelnytsky Cadet School and a Haidamaka detachment. After a bloody 5-hour conflict, nearly 300 young Ukrainian men were killed in defense of their homeland.

Due to the emotional and patriotic impact of this great act of heroism and bravery, the Soviet Government attempted to hide the truth about the Battle of Kruty from the Ukrainian people. Although speaking about it was prohibited, the account of the students’ bravery nevertheless spread throughout the country and to this day remains in the hearts and minds of the Ukrainian people.

In honor of their sacrifice, the then President of the Ukrainian National Republic Mykhailo Hrushevsky, speaking at the funeral, proclaimed them heroes. After the collapse of the Ukrainian National Republic the bodies of the students were moved to the Lukyanivsky Cemetery in Kyiv. On the 80th anniversary of this tragedy, a monument of the Battle of Kruty was erected at Askold’s Grave in Kyiv; and in 2006, the Kruty Heroes Monument was erected on the actual site of the heroic battle.

On this solemn 100th anniversary of the Battle of Kruty, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America sends its prayers and thanks to the students who perished at Kruty and to all who have fought and continue to fight for a free and democratic Ukraine.

*Heroyam Slava - Glory to the Heroes!*
UKRAINIAN DAYS: MARCH 6-7, 2018

Following the Revolution of Dignity, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) organized numerous successful “Ukrainian Days” advocacy programs in our nation’s capital. The results of those advocacy programs have led to remarkable results in U.S.-Ukraine relations that include increased economic assistance to the country; a plethora of sanctions of Russian individuals and sectors of the Russian economy in response to the invasion of Eastern Ukraine and illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula; authorization for military assistance to Ukraine; and, most notably the sale of lethal weaponry to Ukraine to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty. To continue our advocacy campaign called #SupportUkraine!, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) is once again organizing “Ukrainian Days” in Washington, DC on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 6-7, 2018. The intent of “Ukrainian Days” is to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, as well as to enhance relations with our elected representatives in Congress.

The “Ukrainian Days” agenda will consist of several aspects. Firstly, on Tuesday, March 6th, UNIS will organize a roundtable at the Embassy of Ukraine. Ambassador Valeriy Chaly, Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States, and other Ukrainian experts will brief participants about the current U.S.-Ukraine relationship. A discussion will ensue regarding increased U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine; NATO; energy security for Ukraine; NATO enlargement; the fight against corruption; and, weaponry for Ukraine.

Following the embassy roundtable, an evening reception is also being planned on Capitol Hill. “Ukrainian Days” participants will have a chance to acquaint themselves with others in Washington who follow U.S.-Ukraine relations. Members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC) and Senate Ukraine Caucus (SUC) will be invited to the reception. Throughout the two day event, participants of “Ukrainian Days” will meet with their respective members of the House of Representatives and Senate in order to communicate to them issues that concern the Ukrainian American community and establish closer communications with their offices. Such relations and contact are critical to advancing our community’s issues in the U.S. Congress. Briefing papers on various topics will be supplied to all the participants of “Ukrainian Days” by UNIS.

UCCA RELEASES 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The UCCA National Office is very pleased to announce that its FY 2017 Annual Report has been released. Within the 20-page report, we offer you a glimpse of UCCA in action in 2017. The report provides and overview of our main accomplishments and reflects the strides made in 2017 to attain our mission/goals.

UCCA is delighted to share the highlights of our work in fiscal year 2017. Should you like an electronic version of the report, please contact the UCCA National Office. To help manage costs, hard copies of the report will only be available only upon request.

Save the Date: March 8th UA Security Conference

On Thursday, March 8th, UCCA is once again teaming up with the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations and the American Foreign Policy Council, to co-sponsor the 9th US-Ukraine Security Dialogue entitled, “Identifying Ukraine’s Security Priorities.”

The full-day conference will bring together two dozen senior U.S. and Ukrainian strategists as well as defense and security experts to explore such areas as: maritime security, cyber security, and informational warfare. It will also examine the current Russo-Ukrainian War that has been waged for almost four years now.

The Security Conference will take place on Thursday, March 8, at the National Press Club, in Washington, D.C. The conference is free of cost, but as space is limited, you must register to attend.

For a copy of the program, a registration form or more information about the upcoming conference please contact the UCCA National Office either by phone at (212)228-6840 or email to tolexy@ucca.org.

Ad Memoriam...

It is with great sadness that the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America informs its members and the entire Ukrainian community of the passing of Teodor Wolanyk on January 8.

Teodor Wolankyk was an active member of our community serving as one of the founders and long-time head of the Ukrainian Free University Foundation, a long-time member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, head of the NY Branch of the Organization of Four Freedoms For Ukraine, member of the Organization Ukrainian Nationalists, and a long time UCCA National Council member. On behalf of the UCCA Executive Board, we would like to express our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to his family and the entire Ukrainian American community for their loss.

Vichnaya Pamiat!