

UCCA MARKS 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN CONGRESS

On May 20th, the UCCA Executive Board hosted a Commemorative Luncheon Reception on the occasion of the organization's 75th Anniversary. The reception, which was held in the Senate Visitor's Center of the U.S. Capitol, was moderated by Michael Sawkiw, Director of UNIS and former President of the UCCA. His Eminence Yevstratiy, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate shared a convocation in Ukrainian to commence the afternoon reception. His Excellency John Bura, Auxiliary Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, delivered an opening prayer in English.

UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, opened the reception with welcoming remarks, stating, "...As we stand together here today, let us recall the original words of our founders, a preamble that still rings true today, as Ukraine continues its age old struggle to secure its sovereignty and maintain its territorial integrity. We must remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine and continue to be guided by the mission of the founders of the UCCA..."

Several Members of Congress joined the celebration and expressed their congratulations, including: Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL), Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA), Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH).



L to R: Rep. Pascrell; Rep. Kelly; current UCCA Executive Board; Rep. Turner; UWC President E. Czolij



L to R: Ambassadors R. Popadiuk, W. Miller, & J. Herbst; Žygimantas Pavilionis; S. Kyslytsya; G. Khelashvili.

Many U.S. and foreign diplomats also attended the reception to congratulate the UCCA, including: three former U.S. Ambassadors to Ukraine, including Roman Popadiuk, William Green Miller and John Herbst; Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S. Žygimantas Pavilionis; and, DCM of the Republic of Georgia, Giorgi Khelashvili.

Several guests from Ukraine thanked the UCCA for all of their years of supporting Ukraine including: Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergiy Kyslytsya who also read a prepared statement by Pavlo Klimkin, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Oles' Yanchuk, CEO - Dovzhenko Film Studios.

Former UCCA and UWC President, Askold Lozynskyj, paid tribute to the UCCA Presidents who preceded him and inspired everyone present to continue the work of the UCCA to bring more attention to the plight of Ukrainians suffering due to the Russian aggression.

Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij also delivered greetings stating, "I wish you continued success and I am confident that the UCCA, inspired by its 75 years of history and achievements, will redouble its efforts in today's challenging times until Ukraine prevails in stopping Russian aggression against the free world."

Greetings were also relayed to UCCA by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia - Eric Rubin. Lee Edwards, President - Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation also provided words of congratulations on the UCCA's milestone anniversary. UNIS Director M. Sawkiw thanked the multitude of think-tank, Eastern European, and Ukrainian community organizations who participated and supported the efforts of the UCCA.

UCCA BESTOWS 'FRIEND OF UNIS' TO SENATOR MENENDEZ

On Saturday, May 2nd, the Ukrainian National Association, in conjunction with the UCCA, held a 'Rally in Support of Ukraine' at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Whippany, NJ. The keynote speaker at the rally was Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

During the Rally, UCCA's President had an opportunity to thank the Senator for his support. Ms. Olexy stated, "We are grateful for your leadership, expertise and candor in speaking out in defense of Ukraine's independence, its territorial integrity and the important role the United States' needs to play in securing both... You have understood from the start, that the international community, and specially the United States cannot remain passive in the face of Russian aggression in Ukraine, for remaining passive will only invite further aggression... Your words and promises to our community have always been followed-up by deeds. You have led and continue to lead congressional efforts to penalize Russia for its invasion and illegal occupation of Crimea and for their support of terrorists in eastern Ukraine."



In bestowing Senator Menendez with the "Friend of UNIS" award, Ms. Olexy, remarked, "Please accept this award as a token of our great appreciation for all of your support and hard efforts on behalf of Ukraine and the security of our great nation, the United States."

UCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS MEET WITH USAID IN WASHINGTON

On May 20th, UCCA Executive Board members, Tamara Olexy and Andriy Dobriansky held a meeting with USAID to discuss U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine. The UCCA has submitted a grant to USAID to conduct a project called, "People for People: Reconciliation and Peace-Building in Ukraine" proposes a 24-month endeavor in partnership with top Ukrainian civil society organizations, bringing volunteer expert resources from UCCA member organizations' professional networks in the United States to bear on stabilizing and starting to rebuild the Ukrainian social fabric through reconciliation and peace-building.

UCCA PASSAIC, NJ BRANCH HOLDS ELECTIONS

The Passaic, NJ Branch of the UCCA held elections on April 19, 2015. Many UCCA members attended, including numerous representatives of local community organizations. Marie Duplak, UCCA Executive Secretary was also present, representing the UCCA Executive Board.



After the outgoing branch leaders provided reports on their work and were given absolution, the Nominating Committee unanimously elected the new branch leadership: Jaroslaw Fedun – President; Marie Duplak – Vice-President; Konstantin Wanio – External Affairs chair; Halyna Semeniak – Cultural and Educational chair; Ivana Lotoshynsky – Secretary; Wasyl Harhaj – Treasurer, UNF; and Representative of New Ukrainian Wave – Organizational chair. Members-at-large were: Pawlo Figol (CYM), Darka Temnycky (PLAST), Iryna Chalupa, Wolodymyr Mohuchy. Auditing Committee Members: Roman Diduch, Ivan Burtyk, Stefan Zurawsky.

BISHOP LOSTEN CELEBRATES 85TH BIRTHDAY

On the occasion of Bishop Basil Losten's 85th birthday, the UCCA sent warm greetings, which read:

On behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), please accept our warmest wishes and heartfelt prayers on the occasion of your 85th Birthday! We have always admired your hard work and dedication to the Ukrainian community and the UCCA specifically. You have been an exemplary shepherd to the Ukrainian Catholic faithful and continued to inspire us all.

We pray that God will always guide and strengthen you, and that you will continue to do great things for the Glory of God.

May God bless you today and always!