

39TH UNA CONVENTION

The Ukrainian National Association (UNA), a founding and integral member of the UCCA, held its 39th Convention from May 18 - 20, 2018, at the Soyuzivka Ukrainian Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, NY.

UCCA's President Andriy Futey delivered the Keynote address during Saturday evening's UNA's Fundraising Gala Banquet to benefit the Soyuzivka Heritage Center's Capital Improvements and New Project Fund. In his remarks Futey thanked the UNA for their contributions to and impact on our community by publishing of two of the most important newspapers in North America – Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly; their prudence to unite with three other fraternal organizations in 1940 to call the first Congress of the Ukrainian American community – establishing the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; their leadership role in 1967 to establish the Ukrainian World Congress; and of course the purchase of the magnificent property of Soyuzivka, which has become the cultural gem of our community!



Underscoring that UCCA is doing its utmost to assist Ukraine in protecting its independence and sovereignty, strengthening its defense capabilities and overcoming its political and economic crises, Futey stressed the importance of unity within our community, stating, “during these difficult days in our history, it is paramount that we do everything in our power to help our brothers and sisters... it is very important for all of us to speak in one unified voice, because we are the only body that can really impress upon world that Ukraine needs help, and that Russia's aggression is not only a threat to Ukraine, but to the entire free democratic world... In many ways, the work of Ukrainians in America is needed more now than in recent memory, given Russia's latest efforts to enslave Ukraine. Only by continuing to strengthen our coalition of allies, will victory come in the form of a Ukraine, whole and free.”

UCCA's Executive Board congratulates the newly-elected Board of the UNA, the largest and oldest North American Ukrainian fraternal benefit society and wishes it much success in their future endeavours to strengthen our Ukrainian national identity, culture and pride amongst our American and Canadian friends.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH ACTING MINISTER OF HEALTH

On Sunday, May 6th, UCCA hosted a working roundtable discussion with Ukraine's Acting Minister of Health, Dr. Ulana Suprun.



The almost two-hour discussion provided leaders of the community with an overview of the most important health issues faced by Ukrainians today and the various reform efforts Dr. Suprun is working on to transform the healthcare system, including: the implementation of the new financing mechanism - “money follows the patient”; the legal right patients have to choose their own family doctor; new licensing and educational standards for doctors, among others.

Throughout the discussion, the Ukrainian American leaders shared their ideas and views on how best our community can assist our brethren in Ukraine, including humanitarian relief efforts, most specifically aiding our wounded soldiers.

UCCA LAUNCHES NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE

UCCA is pleased to announce the launch of its new website – www.ucca.org - a clean, user-friendly platform that enables UCCA to portray its current focus and engage the Ukrainian American community.

The site is designed to better support our members by providing an accessible portal to all of UCCA's work. It will improve how we interact and communicate with our members and the greater Ukrainian American community. The intention is to enable more effective engagement of members, provide greater clarity on our position on various issues, and offer ease of access to our content for all those interested.

UCCA RELEASES STATEMENT ON 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KONOVALETS MURDER

On May 23, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest grassroots representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, will mark 80 years since the assassination of one Ukraine's greatest statesmen, revolutionaries and military leaders - Col. Yevhen Konovalets. Struck down by the cowardly time-bomb of an NKVD agent, his body was discovered on the streets of Rotterdam, Germany, in 1938, almost 12 years to the day after the assassination of his close friend and comrade-in-arms, Symon Petliura.

Born in Zashkiv, outside of Lviv, Col. Konovalets was a man deeply dedicated to the cause of Ukraine's independence, rising to the rank of commander of the Corps of Sich Riflemen, commandant of the Ukrainian Military Organization (UVO) and finally as co-founder and first elected leader of the Supreme Council of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN).

One of the most prominent Ukrainian leaders of the 20th-century, Konovalets led an international effort of organizing Ukrainian veterans' associations throughout the diaspora as well as the establishment of foreign-language press bureaus in order to help garner political support for Ukraine's independence; this included his personal appeals to the League of Nations to address the issue of Ukrainian sovereignty.

Col. Konovalets' once wrote, "Neither the enemy's prisons, deportations, nor the death of individual fighters will destroy the will of the Ukrainian people to an independent life, because Ukraine is an unconquerable bastion of heroes."

Unfortunately, his words still ring true today, as the valiant men and women of Ukraine are once again forced to defend their independence and territorial integrity against the very same tyrants who for centuries have kept the Ukrainian nation in chains.

On this solemn anniversary, UCCA pays tribute to the unconquerable and unbreakable spirit of Col. Yevhen Konovalets, a true hero in Ukraine's ongoing quest for freedom. May his legacy continue to be an inspiration for Ukrainians worldwide in their ongoing promotion and defense of the Ukrainian state.

UCCA GEORGIA BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

Greetings to the newly elected leadership of UCCA's Georgia Branch! Following the general elections held at their annual meeting, the following Branch members were named to leadership positions:



Nataliia Onyskiv – Chair
Tetiana Lendiel – Treasurer
Svitlana McNutt – Cultural Events
Yuriy Babak - External Relations
Andriy Sanatchouk – Internal Relations

For more details, follow their announcements on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UCCAINGeorgia/ and send your questions and suggestions to ucca_georgia@yahoo.com

UCCA PASSAIC/BERGEN BRANCH ELECTS NEW BOARD

On April 22nd, UCCA's Passaic/Bergen County Branch in New Jersey held their annual meeting, which was attended by representatives of local Ukrainian organizations with local chapters – Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM), Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, New Ukrainian Wave, Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna, "Ridna Shkola" School of Ukrainian Studies, Ukrainian National Home of Passaic, as well as individual UCCA members who have paid their annual contribution to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund (UNF). The participants represented a broad variety of types of organizations as well as different waves of Ukrainian immigration to the United States, once again demonstrating that the Passaic community is unified and dedicated to working together for both the good of the local community and Ukraine.



The following members were unanimously elected to leadership positions: Chair - Marie Duplak; Vice-Chair and External Affairs - Kenneth Wanio, Culture and Education - Halyna Semeniak; Secretary - Nadiya Dovhan; Treasurer - Vasyl Harhaj. Members-at-large include Pavlo Figol, Darka Temnycky, Tetyana Fedak, Jaroslaw Fedun, Dr. Michael Lewko, Wolodymyr Mohuchy, Andriy Zhuravsky. Auditing Committee Members: Stefan Zhuravsky, George Oliarnyk, Roman Diduch.