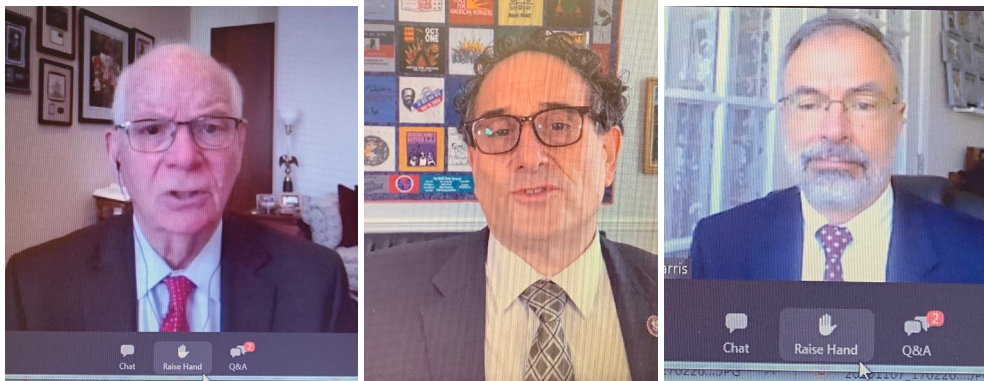


## UCCA SECURITY CONFERENCE

On March 3-4, 2021, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual US-Ukraine Security Dialogue was held via zoom to discuss the “New Administration’s Approach to Ukraine’s Most Pressing Security Issues.”



The two-day conference, which featured four panel discussions and two highlight focus sessions, explored how the Biden national security and foreign policy team might deal with (and hopefully aid) Ukraine’s efforts to thwart military threats, threats of political subversion, undue economic/energy pressures and varied disinformation campaigns.



Over the two-day event, three members of Congress addressed the participants – *L to R: Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD); Congressman Andy Levin (D-MI) and Congressman Andy Harris (R-MD)* – and they all underscored that there is strong bipartisan support for Ukraine in Congress, and that Ukraine’s security still matters to the United States.

One interesting take away from the forum was a comment from former US Ambassador to Ukraine Bill Taylor, who moderating the first panel on ‘What the New Administration Should Understand About The Security Needs of Ukraine.’ He remarked that in speaking with individuals responsible for Ukraine in the Biden Administration he underscored that the U.S. cannot independently approve a decision on Ukraine's integration into NATO, but nothing prevents the U.S. from granting the country the status of a major non-NATO ally status (something UCCA has been advocating for years).

The forum’s four host organizations – the American Foreign Policy Council, the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian National Information Service – would like to sincerely thank all of the speakers for their insightful remarks as well as express our gratitude to our sponsoring organizations for their continued support – the Buduchnist Foundation, the Jurkiw Family Fund, the Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank, and Self Reliance (NY) FCU.

The entire conference can be viewed at UCCA’s Facebook & YouTube pages.

## “UKRAINIAN DAY” PREPARATIONS

UCCA’s Washington, D.C.,-based bureau - the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) - is continuing its #SupportUkraine! virtual advocacy campaign in 2021.

A “*Ukrainian Days*” pilot project was launched with representatives of the Philadelphia community on Feb. 22, to inform those interested in matters happening in Congress. The event included an outlook of issues in Congress, followed by a questions and answer session. The goal is to prepare all communities for a virtual “*Ukrainian Days*” session with their respective elected officials in Congress during the early summer months.

UCCA’s policy recommendations for U.S.-Ukraine relations for the new Congress and Administration were also distributed to participants.

While other sessions are currently being planned, should your branch or community be interested in hosting a virtual briefing, please contact the UNIS office at:

[unis.sawkiw@gmail.com](mailto:unis.sawkiw@gmail.com)

Another project being launched by UCCA’s National Office are virtual meetings with UCCA branches during which we can share best practices, discuss possible concerns, while also addressing some strategic points of UCCA’s 2021 work plan.

These meeting will also incorporate aspects of UNIS’ #SupportUkraine! virtual “*Ukrainian Days*” advocacy campaign.

## UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FUND (UNF) 2021 APPEAL

This past year the worldwide coronavirus pandemic compelled UCCA to work remotely and conduct its operations in a different manner. In effectively adjusting its strategies, UCCA was able to continue enlisting U.S. support for Ukraine while highlighting the importance of our 1.5 million-strong Ukrainian diaspora.

### *In 2020 UCCA successfully:*

- Celebrated UCCA's historic 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary with expanded virtual programs;
- Co-sponsored a variety of timely virtual conferences and forums on such topics: Ukraine's Most Pressing Security Requirements; Enhancing Wellbeing, Resilience and Civic Engagement of Ukrainian Veterans; Annual US-Ukraine Working Group Summit; The Ukrainian Experience in 1945; and "Assessing the Human Resources of Ukraine's Armed Forces;"
- Marked important dates in Ukraine's history including the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of renewed Independence and the 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Holodomor;
- Hosted a delegation of International Election Observers, in cooperation with the UWC, to monitor Ukraine's local elections and support her democratic development;
- Continued strengthening our coalition of support, by expanding our alliances with various ethnic groups to advance issues of common concern;
- Supported the efforts of our various member organizations in their vital work for the community;
- Strengthened our strategic communications and advocacy by increasing our social media footprint to spread our message and gain support for UCCA's initiatives;

UCCA is hopeful that our fellow community members remain safe and healthy and we will be back to some normalcy in 2021. In the meantime, UCCA will continue doing all that it can to develop alternate modes of community engagement, advocacy, communication, and education to fulfill our Mission - *representing the Ukrainian American community with utmost vigor and championing the cause of freedom and democracy for our ancestral homeland* – and we hope we can continue counting on your assistance.

The **Ukrainian National Fund (UNF)** has served as UCCA's main financial basis to conduct activities independent of outside influences, for the benefit of our community and the cause of Ukraine's freedom and independence. Thanks to the generous support of our members, the UNF has served as UCCA's bulwark in support of our efforts. You can be confident that your generous donation will continue to go directly to supporting UCCA's work in ensuring that Ukraine's interests, and those of the Ukrainian American community are safeguarded now and in the future.

*All donations to UCCA's Ukrainian National Fund are tax deductible and can be submitted through a UCCA local branch or directly to UCCA's National Office.*

## NEW ISSUE OF THE UKRAINIAN QUARTERLY

The Winter 2020 issue of UCCA's English language scholarly journal - The Ukrainian Quarterly - is now available!

A few titles included in The Ukrainian Quarterly's winter's issue are:

- President Volodymyr Zelenskyy: What Went Wrong?
- Post-Local Elections: Ukraine is Prey to Oligarchs' Business Interests
- Ukrainian Armed Forces 2020: Overview Of Most Important Events and Achievements
- Four Cabinets of Ministers after Euromaidan: The Path of Reforms
- Granite Revolution of 1990 – Revolution against Fear
- Challenge to Survive: Media in Ukraine after 2020 Crisis
- Church Banners: Preserving National Art and Religious Heritage
- Problem of Ukraine in Recent American Peace-Planning Literature

To purchase the winter issue or to subscribe to UCCA's venerable journal in circulation since 1944, please contact UCCA's National Office.

## UCCA POSTPONES XXIII CONVENTION UNTIL 2022

UCCA's Executive Board and National Council held virtual meetings on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. During the zoom discussion, a variety of pressing issues were addressed, including UCCA's upcoming XXIII Congress of Ukrainians in America, slated for October 2021.

Given the ongoing worldwide coronavirus pandemic, and desire to host the Convention in person, it was decided and voted upon to once again postpone the Congress until 2022.