



UCCA HOLD HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS IN KYIV

This past September, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America's (UCCA) newly-elected President, Andriy Futey, and immediate past President Tamara Olexy traveled to Kyiv, Ukraine for a 4 day working visit. In addition to a packed schedule of meetings, both were invited by the Government of Ukraine to participate in the solemn commemorations honoring the victims of the Babyn Yar tragedy 75 years ago.

On September 27th, Mr. Futey and Ms. Olexy joined the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) delegation headed by UWC President Evhen Czolij at a ceremony with Prime Minister of Ukraine, Volodymyr Groysman, to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ukrainian World Congress.

On September 28th, the UCCA Delegation, along with representatives of the UWC, met with the Chair of the External Affairs Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament, MP Hanna Hopko, to discuss ongoing efforts to maintain US and European sanctions on Russia and continued support of the US Administration, Congress and Ukraine's Parliament in the current crisis in Eastern Ukraine. Afterwards, Chair Hopko invited other members of the Committee to present their concerns and priorities. The conversation focused on continued Russian aggression, the current situation in Crimea and the coordination of efforts to extend sanctions on Russia. Chair Hopko reiterated the importance of a visit from the newly elected President of the United States to Ukraine and the UCCA's assistance in that effort.

That same day, Mr. Futey and Ms. Olexy met with acting Minister of Health, Ulana Suprun, who thanked the UCCA for its efforts in continuing to coordinate humanitarian aid to Ukraine and discussed the need for direct assistance in some areas, most notably with children's health. She discussed her priorities and the systematic and legislative changes she will be pursuing to completely restructure the Ministry and the delivery of health care in Ukraine.

The UCCA then joined UWC for a meeting with Vice Prime Minister on European and EuroAtlantic Integration, Ivanna Klympusch-Tsintsadze. Among key issues discussed were the continuation of European sanctions against Russia and the aftermath of the referendum vote by the Netherlands as to Ukraine's membership in the European Union.



L to R: UWC & UCCA meeting with MP Volodymyr Ariev; UWC Delegation with Prime Minister Groysman; UWC with Vice Prime Minister on European and EuroAtlantic Integration, Ivanna Klympusch-Tsintsadze

On September 30th, Mr. Futey and Ms. Olexy met with U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, who congratulated the UCCA on its successful XXII Congress and reconfirmed the Embassy's continued cooperation in the future. During the meeting key issues were discussed including continued US leadership in maintaining sanctions on Russia, further humanitarian and economic assistance for Ukraine, civic and social community programs that the UCCA is planning to spearhead, and the most recent developments in Ukraine.

During their stay in Ukraine, Mr. Futey, Ms. Olexy, and Askold Lozynskij, former UCCA President and current Chair of the UCCA Film Committee, were invited to attend a celebration for renowned film director Oles Yanchuk at the Dovzhenko National Film Studio. The reception, in honor of Mr. Yanchuk's 60th birthday, was also attended by Ukraine's Minister of Culture, Evhen Niszcuk who expressed his support for the upcoming UCCA co-produced film "The Secret Diaries of Symon Petlura", which chronicles the life of the famous Ukrainian statesman and nationalist leader.

Throughout their 4 day working visit, UCCA also held meetings with Vyatautas Landsbergis, First Head of State of Lithuania after it's independence from the Soviet Union, Valdis Zatlers, former President of the Republic of Latvia, Yulia Tymoshenko, former Prime Minister of Ukraine, Paul Shapiro, Director of the Office of International Affairs at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, MP Volodymyr Ariev, Chair of the Ukrainian delegation to Parliament Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE), as well as several members of Parliament including Hryhoriy Nemyria, Viktor Kryvenko, Pavlo Kyshkar and Ostap Yednak.

SENATOR PORTMAN RECEIVES UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY'S HIGHEST HONOR

On October 19th, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) received The Shevchenko Freedom Award, the highest accolade accorded by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the nation's largest representation of Ukrainians in America. Established in 1962, the award named in honor of Ukraine's poet-laureate and national hero Taras Shevchenko, is bestowed upon individuals who have displayed a remarkable understanding and given substantial assistance to the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian people.



The UCCA's newly-elected President and Cleveland native, Andriy Futey, along with Marta Liscynesky Kelleher, President of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio (UZO) and other community leaders representing the Ukrainian community of the Greater Cleveland and North-East Ohio area, presented the senator with the award, which stated:

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
has the honor to present

THE SHEVCHENKO FREEDOM AWARD

to

The Honorable Rob Portman

For his continued support of Ukraine's territorial integrity, and for pursuing steadfast relations with Ukraine in recognition of its vital importance to Trans-Atlantic peace and security.

Senator Portman, a co-founder and co-chair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, has long been a leading voice in the United States' efforts to support Ukraine's territorial integrity and has pursued steadfast relations with Ukraine in recognition of its vital importance to Trans-Atlantic peace and security while persistently advocating for the U.S. to play a more active role in helping Ukraine stave off Russian aggression.

UWC & UCCA MEET WITH AMBASSADOR YELCHENKO

On October 14th, the UWC and the UCCA held a meeting with Ukraine's Permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko. The meeting was held to discuss plans and cooperation between the UWC and the Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations, including commemorating the Holodomor.



L to R: Ambassador Yelchenko, UCCA Executive Director, Tamara Olexy, Ukrainian World Congress' Secretary General, Stefan Romaniw.

UCCA'S POSITIONS IN THE UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS

At the October 22nd Board Meeting of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), UCCA's newly-elected President, Andriy Futey, was installed as the UCCA representative to the UWC, serving as one of its Vice Presidents.

At the same UWC Board meeting Tamara Olexy was appointed Chair of the UWC's International Council on UN Affairs, taking the place of Andriy Futey.

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has a network of member organizations and ties with Ukrainians in 53 countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.

**To mark the 83rd anniversary of the
Holodomor, a requiem service (Panakhyda)
will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral
in New York City
on Saturday, November 12th at 1 PM.**