UCCA Participates in UWC Annual General Meeting

On the eve of their Annual General Meeting, the Ukrainian World Congress held its first Virtual Forum titled “United by Ukraine”, a global discussion that focused on what unites Ukrainians all over the world. What do Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Hollywood actress Vera Farmiga, “Vikings” star Katheryn Winnick and the legendary Kvitka Cisyk have in common? How did the Ukrainian People's House in Przemyśl become a center of cultural diplomacy? During this unique discussion that was broadcast live, several prominent diaspora Ukrainians including - Borys Gudziak, Archbishop-Metropolitan of Philadelphia for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States; Natalie Jaresko, former Minister of Finance of Ukraine; Oksana Lyniv, First female conductor of the Bayreuth Festival (Germany); among others, discussed our culture, language, faith, history and fighting against the aggressor – all aspects that unite Ukrainians worldwide.

The following day, October 18th, over 170 participants from UWC member organizations in 32 countries gathered online for the UWC’s Annual General Meeting to review the past year’s work and develop an action plan for upcoming year.

One of the highlights of the UWC annual meeting was awarding Anna Kisil UWC Second Vice-President, Head of WFUWO, with the recognition from the President of Ukraine Cross of Ivan Mazepa. Andriy Shevchenko, Ukraine’s Ambassador to Canada, presented the award in the virtual ceremony.

Presenting UWC annual report, UWC President Paul Grod outlined key priorities for next year 2021: countering Russian aggression, strengthening Ukraine as a successful and prosperous democratic state, and developing the Ukrainian world.

UCCA Marks 30th Anniversary of Student Revolution

Thirty years ago this month, the world witnessed something Ukraine had yet to experience – a mass protest in the capital’s main square – October Revolution Square, now known as Maidan Nezalezhnostij. There in Kyiv’s central square a group of students set up a tent city, staged a hunger strike, demanded change and promised not to let up until their demands were met.

Bucking the system, and defying Soviet authority, these students called for early parliamentary elections, the rejection of signing any new Union Treaty, the nationalization of Community party property, allowing local conscripts to serve only on Ukrainian territory, and the resignation of Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol.

These brave students of the Revolution on Granite not only organized the first of three major protests in recent Ukraine’s history and galvanized the country’s support but they became the catalysts for Ukraine’s quest for independence and democratic governance.

On September 29th, UCCA hosted a webinar in cooperation with the Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM) to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Revolution on Granite.

UCCA & UAYA were pleased to have hosted one of the Granite Revolution’s student leaders - Oles Donij, along with civic activist and Ostroh Academy student Vitaliy Voytsekhovsky and Ivan Lozowy an eyewitness to the Revolution on Granite.

If you missed the panel discussion, you can view it on Facebook - facebook.com/UCCA.org/videos and YouTube - https://bit.ly/UCCATube
UCCA Observes Ukraine’s Local Elections

As in all previous election cycles, UCCA took an active role in monitoring Ukraine’s October 25th local elections. Given the worldwide pandemic, and various travel restrictions, the Election Observation Mission (EOM) did not actively seek volunteers but relied mainly on expats already residing in Ukraine. Yet despite the challenges associated with Covid-19, UWC and UCCA International Observation Missions were able to field 26 International Election Observers (14 from UCCA; and 12 from UWC) on Election Day.

Working hand in hand, UWC & UCCA began its work immediately following CEC accreditation by holding official meetings with the leadership of Ukraine’s Central Election Commission, Foreign Affairs and Health Ministries, the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches, as well as a series of meetings with leading civil society experts. During the meetings a range of issues were discussed including the challenges faced by holding elections during a pandemic and following Covid-19 protocols, ensuring free and fair elections under the new election law, Russian disinformation, shortages in local funding, and the low public awareness of the new election rules, among others.

Virtual meeting with Ukraine’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Mission also held a training session for its observers during which they were trained in using UCCA’s one of a kind online reporting system.

Following the Elections, the Mission held a press conference during which they reported that our observers were able to visit over 100 polling sites in several oblasts of Ukraine and that the preliminary result is that the voting took place with minor, unsystematic violations that will not affect the final results of the vote. The Mission’s final report will be released shortly.

XXI Roundtable held addressing Security Conference

On October 21st and 22nd, UCCA co-hosted with the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations and the American Foreign Policy Council, the 21st annual Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable. This online conference was dedicated to evaluating Ukraine’s military preparedness, particularly in the face of the ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea and ongoing aggression in Donbas by the nation’s northern neighbor.

To watch the proceedings from October 21st please visit: https://youtu.be/PfZaf0Y_pg
To watch the proceedings from October 22nd, please visit: https://youtu.be/rNJZp-BRP7Q

HOLODOMOR COMMEMORATIONS

Out of an abundance of caution due to the ongoing Corona virus, both the commemoration marking the 5th anniversary of the Holodomor Memorial dedication, as well as our annual Holodomor Commemoration at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, are virtual events this year. UCCA urges our hromada to commemorate the innocent lives lost to the Holodomor by joining our virtual programs.

November 7, 2020
Commemoration of the 5th anniversary of the Holodomor Memorial dedication

Religious Service
https://youtu.be/wqjdh_8-sxM
Remarks
https://youtu.be/bleT44EL1Rk

November 21st
2:00pm EST Requiem Service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral