UCCA encourages increased voter registration & Civic Engagement

As in previous election cycles, UCCA/UNIS prepared a presidential questionnaire “United States Relations with Ukraine” underscoring that in the context of U.S. geo-strategic interests, the current situation in Ukraine cannot be understood without recognizing its far-reaching consequences for the world’s security dynamics. The Russian Federation’s outright invasion of Eastern Ukraine, illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea, not to mention the multi-vectored, political, economic, social, cultural, and religious aggression directed against Ukraine’s sovereignty, is a direct security threat to the Euro-Atlantic community.

The questionnaire, which was sent to both presidential candidates, addressed 5 key issues, ranging from military and economic assistance for Ukraine to combatting Russian disinformation. The answers to the questionnaires will be published for our community.

UCCA to Monitor Local Elections in Ukraine

On Sunday, October 25th, the citizens of Ukraine will be casting ballots for local legislators throughout the country. Held under a new electoral law, whereby the role of local officials has been significantly enhanced due to recent decentralization reforms, deputies of district councils, rural township and city mayors will be elected.

In light of the upcoming local elections, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) together with the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is seeking volunteers to serve as international election observers. Given the worldwide pandemic, and various travel restrictions, the Election Observation Mission (EOM) will rely mainly on expats already residing in Ukraine.

In an effort to cover as much territory as possible, UCCA is coordinating its efforts with the Ukrainian World Congress, of which we are an integral member. The EOM will be co-Chaired by both organizations. UCCA President Andriy Futey and Borys Wrzesnewskyj, former Member of Canada’s parliament, will head the effort.

The goal of the EOM is to support an open and transparent electoral process in Ukraine. UCCA/UWC support Ukraine’s commitment to OSCE standards for free and fair elections that accurately reflect the will of the electorate, and does not support any one candidate, political party or bloc.

The EOM will hold a mandatory (virtual) training for its observers prior to the elections. The briefing will include instruction on how to operate UCCA’s on-line election assessment form – the only one of its kind; provide a special seminar on hostile environment training; review the newly adopted election law and provide tips on how best to serve as international election monitors.

Should you like to volunteer for the UCCA/UWC Mission please contact UCCA by email at tolexy@ucca.org. The deadline for application submission is October 15, 2020.
President Zelenskyy Marks UN’s 75th Anniversary

“I am proud to deliver this statement on behalf of Ukraine - one of the founding members of the United Nations and to congratulate all of us with the 75th anniversary of our Organization.

I think when we met in New York a year ago, no one could have imagined that 2020 would arrange such a powerful crash test for our world.

Today, we recall the fateful conference in San Francisco.

Back then, difficult and unstable post-war times united the founding states, prompting them to put aside the contradictions in order to build a better world. A world of peace, respect, the rule of international law, human rights and the truth.

But regrettably, we have to acknowledge that the world of the 21st century is full of conflicts, aggression, dictatorship, and human rights violations.

75 years ago the founding of UN became the following symbol – the humankind should have learnt the tragic lesson of world war two.

But occupation of Crimea and military Russian aggression in the Donbas prove that this lesson has not been learnt. I would like to remind, that it is not only and not just war in Ukraine. It is war in Europe. And, it is not just an encroachment on the sovereignty of an independent state, it is like an attempt to return to division of spheres of influence in the world.

Your Excellencies,

The world we live in today is as challenging as it was 75 years ago.

Peace and prosperity remain the values, people are shedding blood for, in different corners of our world.

For the previous 75 years the humankind has climbed the highest peaks, dived into the deepest trenches, conquered the Space and even with the help of new technologies can hold UN meetings remotely.

So, are we really incapable of stopping aggression and wars?
Do we need more bloody lessons to rethink our being on this planet?

This year, the coronavirus pandemic came as a shock to all countries.

We should use this warning sign to stop controversies and join efforts for achieving real groundbreaking results.

Not only come back to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, but to start their permanent and full implementation.

Let’s start now. There is no planet B, we live here and only once. I thank you, Mr. President.”

President Zelenskyy Addresses UN General Assembly via Video


The Ukrainian Experience in 1945

On September 26th UCCA cohosted a special 75th Year Retrospective webinar:

The Ukrainian Experience in 1945

This critical examination looked at the myriad circumstances and situations in which Ukrainians found themselves in during the watershed year of 1945. It touched upon Nazi concentration camps or ‘slave labor’ factories and various military formations operating globally at the beginning of the stated time period to the Soviet labor camps and Displaced Persons ‘lagers’ at the end of the same period, with a glimpse at matters in Western Ukraine and Eastern Ukraine as well as in the diaspora of the time.

The second focus session examined the work of The Ukrainian Quarterly, which also began its efforts as the premier English-language scholarly journal on Ukrainian affairs in 1945. The proceedings can be viewed on UCCA’s Facebook page.

Ad Memorium

It is with heavy heart that we inform our community of the untimely passing of Lydia Chorna Matiaszek on September 17th.

Lida was the longtime director of UCCA’s National Office in New York City before moving to Kyiv in the early years of independence where she pursued her passion of helping others and the Bandura. Over the years, Lida’s giving spirit helped those in need through her work at Caritas, the Ukrainian Catholic University and a myriad of NGOs and humanitarian assistance programs.

UCCA Executive Board extends its heartfelt condolences to Lydia’s husband Petro Matiaszek, daughter Ksenia, sister Irka and her entire family. May she rest in peace.

Vichnaya Pamyiat!