

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

*76 Years of Serving
the Ukrainian American Community*

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Representing and Serving Our Community for over 75 Years...

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, community-based organization that for 76 years has been representing the interests of the Ukrainian community in the United States. Since its foundation in 1940, the UCCA has been instrumental in disseminating information about the history and plight of the Ukrainian nation by actively implementing both local and international programs and educating U.S. legislators about issues important to Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community.

Working through its various committees, the UCCA coordinates the Educational Council that maintains the Ukrainian Saturday School System in the United States, publishes *The Ukrainian Quarterly*, the only English-language scholarly journal, provides assistance to Ukrainians in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through its Council on Aid to Ukrainians, and produces feature films on Ukrainian themes, particularly historical topics once banned by Soviet authorities.

Since Ukraine's renewed independence 25 years ago, the UCCA has taken an active role in the events unfolding in Ukraine. It has successfully carried out multiple civic education programs and organized dozens of delegations of international election observers to monitor presidential, parliamentary and local elections to help secure a democratic foundation for the future of the Ukrainian nation. The UCCA has remained at the forefront of current events in Ukraine and has been instrumental in raising awareness in the U.S. government and throughout the American community about the ongoing war in Ukraine. Through the work of its branches and member organizations, the UCCA has also been successful in raising funds and humanitarian aid to help the soldiers and their families in Ukraine who have suffered at the hands of Russian-sponsored terrorist aggression.

The UCCA has a National Office in New York City, a public relations bureau in Washington, DC and dozens of branches throughout the United States. Together with its staff and hundreds of volunteers nationwide, the UCCA successfully accomplishes many dynamic and multifaceted projects. With this annual report we would like highlight some of our achievements in 2016.



A Few Words from the President...

2016 has been a challenging year for the Ukrainian-American community in general, and the UCCA in particular. Russia's continued military aggression in Ukraine and its ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea have resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, and threaten the very stability of the post-World War II global order. In addition, Russia's recent cyber-attacks on the United States illustrate that the world's greatest superpower is not immune to the Kremlin's machinations.

The UCCA responded to the challenges - addressing each critical issue and remaining at the forefront of the policy debate on the crisis in Ukraine.

This year was also a transformative one for the UCCA, as in September, the XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America convened in Hartford, CT, to elect a new ruling body. The delegates elected Andriy Futey as the new UCCA president, along with a new Executive Board. The convention also ratified over two dozen changes to the organization's by-laws and charted a course for the Ukrainian-American community for the next four years and beyond.

The UCCA accomplished many productive and beneficial efforts in 2016, some of which are outlined below.

- Our Congressional outreach led to the passage of several vital pieces of legislation including the STAND for Ukraine Act, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016, and numerous resolutions and statements in support of Ukraine;
- The UCCA marked the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's Renewed Independence with two conferences, bringing together leading experts from the U.S., Europe and Ukraine;
- The UCCA expanded its social media outreach, in order to better inform our community of issues facing Ukraine. Reaching thousands of readers on a weekly basis, the UCCA Facebook page reaches generates more organic hits than other Ukrainian organizations in the United States;
- The UCCA also continued to build international support against Russia's continued illegal occupation of Crimea and its support for terrorists in Eastern Ukraine's Donbas region, a challenge that will take on greater importance in 2017 with the new incoming US Administration.

For our part, the UCCA pledges to work persistently to fulfill our mission - to support democracy, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, while enhancing and uniting our vibrant Ukrainian community here in the United States.

We hope the UCCA can count on your continued support - now more than ever, the Ukrainian nation needs our united voice, active participation and steadfast commitment.





On August 24, 2016, the Ukrainian nation marked the 25th anniversary of its renewed independence. To mark this historic date, the UCCA held various events throughout the U.S., including: a reception in the U.S Capitol, an academic conference and historic symposium in NYC, an anniversary banquet in Chicago; and flag-raising ceremonies across the United States. A short recap is outlined below:

- On September 17, the UCCA co-sponsored a day-long symposium at the Princeton Club of NY entitled The 25th Anniversary Of the Modern Ukrainian State. The conference attracted over two dozen speakers from academia, international diplomacy, government, journalism and civil society, as well as over 150 attendees, who dissected Ukraine's distant and recent past, and provided predictions and prescriptions for Ukraine's future.
- Following the September academic conference, the UCCA, along with the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations (CUSUR) sponsored a special historical encounters series entitled Ukraine at 25: A December 1st Remembrance, that brought together scholars, diplomats and eyewitnesses of the events that led to Ukraine's renewed independence. Taras Hunczak, Professor Emeritus of Rutgers University, Amb. Valeriy Kuchinsky, Amb. Yuriy Sergeyev, Dr. Jaroslaw Dutkewych, Roksolana Lozynskyj, Mary Mycio, Irene Jarosewich, and Tamara Olexy, UCCA past president, shared their personal experiences of this historic time and reflected upon specific episodes that had an important impact on understanding Ukraine's renewed independence.



Legislative Advocacy

The UCCA's Washington, D.C. public affairs office, UNIS, worked diligently in advocating a variety of issues and organizing a series of "Ukrainian Days" advocacy events in our nation's capital. UNIS spearheaded our community's efforts in leading a U.S. advocacy agenda to advance Ukraine's right to security and territorial integrity by meeting with members of Congress on a regular basis. By hosting two "Ukrainian Days" advocacy events in Washington, D.C. - in April and in September - as well as advocating our issues on a local level, our community was instrumental in helping to build Congressional support for Ukraine against mounting Russian aggression. Through ongoing dialogue with elected officials and leading opinion makers, UCCA & UNIS were successful in bringing the real situation in Ukraine to the forefront, and several pieces of legislation were introduced and passed in 2016, including:

- The **National Defense Authorization Act 2017 (NDAA)**, which boosted US security assistance to Ukraine to \$350 million in 2017 (an increase of \$50 million from the 2016 NDAA) and included lethal assistance. Ukraine security assistance and intelligence support has been expanded to include equipment and technical assistance to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine for the purpose of developing a comprehensive border surveillance network for Ukraine, as well as training for staff officers and senior leadership of the military.
- The **STAND for Ukraine Act**, introduced by Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), addresses the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. This comprehensive piece of legislation tightens sanctions on Russia and rejects any form of recognition of Russian rule over Crimea, as was American policy toward the 50-year Soviet occupation of the Baltic States. It also promotes investment in Ukraine and directs the U.S. State Department to implement a strategy to respond to Russian propaganda and disinformation.
- The **Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act S.2692**, sponsored by Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) and Chris Murphy (D-CT), would establish a Center for Information Analysis and Response for the purpose of coordinating a U.S response to propaganda from foreign sources such as Russia, China, and other countries. This essential piece of legislation would strengthen U.S. security interests by disseminating truthful information about worldwide issues, in particular Russia's disinformation and propaganda about Ukraine and the war in Eastern Ukraine.

#SupportUkraine

In 2016, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington, D.C. public affairs bureau of the UCCA, initiated the #SupportUkraine campaign to bring more attention to the plight of Ukrainians enduring the ravages of war in eastern Ukraine, and those who are under constant brutal measures in Russia-occupied Crimea. The #SupportUkraine activities throughout 2016 included: "Ukrainian Days" advocacy events, rallies in front of the White House, and outreach to the mass media. The UCCA is grateful to the Central and East European communities who joined our #SupportUkraine campaign, as they clearly understand that if left unchecked, acts of Russian aggression will drastically effect world security and re-draw the current map of Europe. Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity are paramount to geo-political stability worldwide.

The #SupportUkraine campaign called upon all Ukrainian community representatives to meet with their Members of Congress in their respective districts to bring attention to issues of concern regarding U.S.-Ukraine relations and relevant factors of U.S. security interests in the Central and East European region.





Advocacy in Action



Top left: Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)
Above: Ukrainian Days participants
Left: Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)
Below: Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)



Engaging U.S. Presidential Candidates on Ukraine

As in years past, the UCCA reached out to both the Republican and the Democratic National Committees in advance of November's U.S. presidential elections. On behalf of the Ukrainian-American community, the UCCA communicated directly with both the Republican and Democratic campaigns in its desire to aid the Ukrainian nation, in accordance with the stated mission of our organization. As a result, in the summer, UCCA Executive Board members met with both presidential campaigns to address issues important to our community and Ukraine.

Following the meetings with the campaigns of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, the UCCA met with representatives tasked with drafting their respective party platforms. The UCCA also submitted testimony for consideration by platform committees on both sides of the political aisle, which touched upon:

- Stipulating an explicit commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity;
- Maintaining and strengthening economic sanctions against the Russian Federation;
- Rejecting any form of recognition of Russian rule over Crimea in the form of a statutory doctrine of non-recognition;
- Demanding the immediate withdrawal of covert and overt Russian forces and equipment from Ukraine;
- Expanding direct military assistance to Ukraine, including defensive arms and additional military training programs;
- Continuing NATO's "Open Door" policy for membership, and strengthening America's commitment to its allies;
- Maintaining funding for educational, professional and democracy-building programs to aid Ukraine's civil society in rooting out corruption;
- Expanding the Visa Waiver Program and reforming Immigration Regulation;
- And additional points regarding US trade and investment in Ukraine, as well as programs promoting energy independence from Russia.

As a non-partisan organization, the UCCA has always maintained neutrality in politics, encouraging its members to choose whichever party they prefer to support. As a united voice for our community, however, we have consistently taken a unanimous stand on advocating for Ukraine's freedom and independence. Therefore, the UCCA appealed to all of its members to be active participants in American political life, regardless of their political affiliation. In an increasingly interconnected and economically interdependent world, American political parties should be prevailed upon to always endorse political planks which take the lead in promoting international norms, defending basic human rights and freedoms, deterring foreign aggression, supporting the territorial integrity of our allies, and charting a course of geopolitical stability in the best interests of the U.S.

THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL



Sam Clovis - Campaign Co-chair and Senior Policy Advisor to Donald J. Trump

**Madeleine Albright -
Senior Policy Advisor
to Hillary Clinton**



**Evan McMullin -
Independent Candidate
for President**

Statement by **Bernie Sanders** on Continued Detention of Nadia #Savchenko

Sen. Sanders gives his full support to worldwide calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Nadiya Savchenko, the 34-year old Ukrainian pilot who was abducted by separatist militants in Ukraine two years ago and imprisoned by Russia on illegitimate charges where she remains today.

"Through her courageous hunger strike, Savchenko has called further global attention to the injustices of Putin's regime and his illegal military intervention in Ukraine," Sanders said. "Enough is enough. Savchenko should be freed."

Photo: <http://sanders.senate.gov/>



Senator Rubio Press ✓
@SenRubioPress

Today, Nadiya Savchenko remains unjustly imprisoned by **#Russia**. On **#IWD2016** ♀ I call for her immediate & unconditional release **#FreeSavchenko**

RETWEETS 95
LIKES 59



11:56 AM - 8 Mar 2016



Senator Ted Cruz ✓
@SenTedCruz

Russia needs to release unjustly detained Ukrainian pilot **#Savchenko**. Enough is enough. yhoo.it/1W3idbl

RETWEETS 647
LIKES 712



5:50 PM - 8 Mar 2016



September 24, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest wishes to everyone gathered in Hartford for the XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America. While I regret that I cannot be with you in person, I am grateful that former Under Secretary of State Nick Burns has joined you on my behalf; please know that I am sending my best wishes to the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America for a productive gathering.

For the past 76 years, the UCCA has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Ukrainian American community is unified, heard, and represented. Ukrainian Americans are part of the fabric of our country, and stand with all Americans in their commitment to the ideals of democracy and freedom. Indeed, we share the belief that everybody counts and everybody has a role to play in building the future—that cooperation is better than conflict, unity is better than division, and bridges are better than walls. We need to build an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top; work with our allies to keep us safe; and respect and lift each other up. And I know that we can because we believe in a simple but powerful idea: we are stronger together and we can solve our problems when we work together. That's what this community stands for, and it's what I will always stand for as president.

Earlier this week, I was grateful for the opportunity to meet with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to discuss the situation in Ukraine and to underscore my support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. One month ago today, Ukrainians and their allies around the world celebrated their Independence Day; though it has been a quarter century since they declared their independence from the Soviet Union, we must continue to stand with the Ukrainian people as they continue their struggle in support of liberty and democracy. Here in America, we need a president who will stand up to Vladimir Putin—not someone who would advance Putin's agenda and has personally profited from promoting Russian interests. And we need to strengthen our alliances, not drive a wedge through Europe. As we work to forge a better, brighter future for all people, please know that you have my thanks and appreciation for your continued efforts in advancing our shared vision.

With warm wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hillary
Hillary Rodham Clinton

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Enhancing Strategic Alliances

Throughout 2016, UNIS continued to work hand-in-hand with the Central East European Coalition (CEEC), an alliance of U.S.-based ethnic organizations representing over 20 million such Americans, by regularly issuing Policy Papers to share concerns and ideas with the United States Congress and Administration, as well as meeting with numerous congressional leaders during two “Ukrainian Day” advocacy events and a joint UNIS/CEEC advocacy event entitled NATO Stance on Russia. This policy forum featured a discussion about NATO and its response to current Russian aggression in the region. The policy forum included keynote speaker Dr. Michael Carpenter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, and panelists Amb. Kurt Volker, former U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO, Mindaugas Zickus, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Lithuania to the USA, and Damian Murphy, from the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Over 100 congressional staffers, policy analysts and community activists participated in the event.



CEEC's NATO Policy Forum - U.S. Senate



WCCT Executive Meeting - Vilnius

The UCCA also continued to strengthen ties with the Crimean Tatar community, by jointly collaborating on advocacy initiatives, and including each other at high-level events. In April, the UCCA was again invited to attend a working meeting of the recently elected Executive Board of the World Crimean Tatar Congress (WCCT) at their gathering in Vilnius, Lithuania from April 11-13. The resolve demonstrated by the WCCT closely mirrors that of the UCCA, whose leadership understands that self-determination and respect for human rights will never exist on our homeland so long as a foreign invader continues to occupy the land. The UCCA looks forward to continuing its cooperation with the WCCT in its advocacy efforts in the US, as well as international arenas such as the United Nations and future Congresses of both organizations.

The UCCA also continues to cooperate with the Syrian American Council, a nonpartisan, U.S.-based advocacy organization, which has opened the eyes of many members of Congress when describing the war crimes committed by Russia in their homeland.

Solemn Commemorations

At the end of March, President Petro Poroshenko attended the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C. The President took this opportunity to meet with the Ukrainian community at the National Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial - his first visit since the unveiling of the memorial in November 2015. Hundreds attended the wreath-laying ceremony in honor of the millions of innocent victims of Stalin's forced famine-genocide of Ukraine in 1932-1933. UNIS Director and U.S. Holodomor Committee Chairman, Michael Sawkiw greeted the President at the Memorial.



At the invitation of Ukraine's Prime Minister, Volodymyr Groysman, and several Jewish organizations, UCCA's newly-elected President, Andriy Futey and former UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, traveled to Ukraine to participate in the official commemoration of the Babyn Yar Tragedy on its 75th Anniversary. Solemn events organized over a series of days paid homage to the thousands of victims of this horrific tragedy and remembered those referred to as the "Righteous of Babyn Yar," who risked their lives to protect the Jews from murder; in particular, the saintly work of Andrey Sheptytsky, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, was highlighted in several remarks.

During their trip, Mr. Futey and Ms. Olexy attended a dinner co-sponsored by the World Jewish Congress, the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, during which Ivan Dzyuba was bestowed the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Medal, for his decades-long commitment to human rights and for the fostering dialogue between nations.

On September 29th a memorial symphonic concert, organized by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter to honor the memory of the victims of Babyn Yar, was held at the Kyiv National Opera. Following the memorial concert, the UCCA was invited to attend a commemorative meeting and reception at the Mystetskyj Arsenal National Art and Culture Museum Complex with the participation of President Petro Poroshenko and Maryna Poroshenko; Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, and dozens of world leaders and dignitaries.

The official State Commemoration concluded with a program at the National Historic Memorial Preserve "Babyn Yar," attended by world leaders and dignitaries.



Above: M. Ratushnyy with the UCCA & UWC Delegations

Below Left: Babyn Yar Flame at official State Commemoration

Below Right: Monument to the Child Victims at the Babyn Yar Memorial



The Holodomor Remembered...

Hundreds of Ukrainian Americans gathered on November 12th for the annual commemorative program dedicated to the victims of Ukraine's Holodomor at Manhattan's newly refurbished St. Patrick's Cathedral. His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A, opened the service by thanking the archdiocese of New York and Cardinal Timothy Dolan for hosting the Ukrainian community for so many years. The Metropolitan was joined by his Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky and the Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in leading the Memorial Service – the Panakhyda – at the start of the commemoration, with responses provided by the Ukrainian Dumka Choir of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky.

Following the requiem service, Andriy Futey, the newly confirmed President of the UCCA, explained that the Holodomor was “not simply a case of mass murder” but a prime example of genocide as laid out by Raphael Lemkin, the initiator of the International Genocide Convention. Mr. Futey called on participants to “recommit ourselves to exposing the truth, the whole truth, about the Holodomor Genocide.” The acknowledgement of the crime of genocide was echoed in the remarks of Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN, who quoted former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who once said “genocide begins with the killing of one man — not for what he has done, but because of who he is.” After acknowledging Oleksander and Nadia Severyn, survivors of the Holodomor in attendance, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), thanked them for “giving us strength... giving us courage.” The Senator also emphasized that remembering the millions lost to genocide “matters and matters greatly,” because “to secure our place as a civilized people in Ukraine and in America... we must call out evil for what it is.”

The Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA, Valeriy Chaly, reminded listeners that most cases of famine throughout history were caused by natural disasters, but the “inhuman cruelty of Stalin's totalitarian regime” made the decision to crush the proud nation of Ukraine with the weapon of starvation. Ambassador Chaliy also made mention of another genocide perpetrated by Stalin on Ukraine's soil, that of the indigenous Crimean Tatars, who were deported from Crimea en masse on May 18, 1944, killing nearly 50% of the deportees in the process. Seated behind Ambassador Chaliy was Mustafa Dzhemilev, a member of Ukraine's Parliament and Crimean Tatar Leader, who attended the commemoration in advance of the United Nations General Assembly vote on a critical situation of human rights in his native Crimea. As he had done for the previous seven years, William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, delivered a statement on behalf of the White House.



Photos above by Irene Rejent Saviano

Advancing Our Message At The United Nations

Representing the Ukrainian World Congress at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, UCCA volunteers have formed a working group with other Ukrainian NGO's in an attempt to coordinate our efforts following the arrival of Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations. Our collaborative efforts bore fruit throughout the calendar year, beginning with the annual Ukrainian Mother Language Day at the United Nations, a weeklong exhibit commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Chornobyl Catastrophe, as well as the annual program commemorating the Holodomor at the United Nations.



Engaging With The Leaders Of Ukraine

Throughout 2016, the UCCA continued its frequent exchanges with top Ukrainian officials, engaging in an unprecedented number of high-level meetings, ranging from Ministers, to Members of Parliament as well as non-government organizations, and community leaders. The meetings primarily focused on efforts related to the defense of Ukraine's territorial integrity; combating the Russian Federation's hybrid war, including Russian disinformation; the extension of targeted economic sanctions against the Russian Federation until it fully complies with the Minsk accords and de-occupies Crimea; the defense of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the residents of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine which have been violated as a result of Russian aggression.



**Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze,
Vice-Prime Minister, with UCCA & UWC**



UCCA with President Poroshenko



UCCA & UWC with MP Volodymyr Arieiev



UCCA with MP Iryna Suslova

Hosting The Leaders Of Ukraine

To keep our community apprised of the latest developments in Ukraine, the UCCA also hosted a variety of community events with leaders from Ukraine.



Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman taking a question from UCCA Executive Board Member, Myroslava Rozdolska, in New York City



President Petro Poroshenko being greeted by Ukrainian-American and Crimean Tatar children in New York City

President Petro Poroshenko presenting the jubilee medal in honor of 25 years of Ukraine's Independence to Dr. Larissa Kyj, President of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, and UCCA Executive Board Member.



XXII CONGRESS

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

SEPTEMBER 2016

The XXII Congress of Ukrainians of America, held at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford, CT, from September 23-25, elected Andriy Futey as the new President of the UCCA, ratified over two dozen changes to the organization's by-laws, received greetings from two presidential candidates, and charted a course forward over the next four years for the organized Ukrainian diaspora in the United States.

Over 80 registered delegates participated in the Congress which included a Friday evening informal gathering at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford, two working days of constructive plenary sessions, two forward-thinking panel discussions titled "Support Ukraine" and "Hromada 2040", a Saturday evening gala banquet celebrating Ukraine's 25th anniversary of independence.

During the gala banquet the Shevchenko Freedom Award, the UCCA's highest honor, was presented to several recipients including: long-time director of the UCCA's Washington office, UNIS, and a former UCCA president, Michael Sawkiw; longtime director of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Larissa Kyj; long-time UCCA executive secretary and former president of the Organization for Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine, Marie Duplak; the family of Mark Paslawsky, the only Ukrainian American to have given his life in defense of Ukraine against Russia's most recent invasion, who accepted the award in his name, adding to the many posthumous honors bestowed on this hero. The final recipient of the Shevchenko Freedom Award was doubly awarded that evening. Not only was Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz honored with the Shevchenko Freedom Award, but she was further surprised when Ambassador Chaly bestowed the Order of Princess Olha (third degree) on behalf of President Poroshenko, for her "contribution to strengthening the international authority of Ukraine, popularization of its historical heritage and modern achievements."



Following mass on Sunday, delegates unanimously elected Andrij Futey as UCCA President. Other members of the newly-elected Board include: Stefan Kaczaraj, Chairman of the National Council; Michael Sawkiw, Executive Vice President; Marie Duplak, Executive Secretary; and Myron Kolinsky, Treasurer; and representatives of the UCCA Educational Council; the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, the Ukrainian American Youth Association, New Ukrainian Wave, the Organization for Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, the Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, and a representative from the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

*The UCCA Executive Board would like to sincerely thank the entire UCCA Hartford Branch for their hospitality and for organizing a successful
XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America!*





**Shevchenko Award Winners Above (L to R):
Roma Hadzewycz, Maria Duplak, Michael Sawkiw and Larissa Kyj**

Below: UCCA with Rep. John Larson (D-CT)





XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America - UCCA ©

Below: UCCA with former Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns



All XXII Congress photos by Irene Rejent Saviano

Bestowing The Shevchenko Freedom Award...

The Shevchenko Freedom Award is the highest accolade accorded by the UCCA. Established in 1962, the award named in honor of Ukraine's poet-laureate and national hero Taras Shevchenko, is bestowed upon individuals, Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike, who have dedicated their time and effort to realize the prophetic aspirations of Taras Shevchenko and the goal of freedom for Ukraine.

Following the conclusion of the XXII Congress, the Shevchenko Freedom Award was bestowed upon the following recipients:



On October 19th, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) received The Shevchenko Freedom Award, 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.

On November 2nd, U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell received The Shevchenko Freedom Award, for his deep understanding and ongoing support for the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian nation.



UCCA & UNIS bestowed the "Friends of UNIS" Award in 2016 to several members of Congress, including Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), in an effort to show our community's appreciation to those who showed leadership and steadfast support for Ukraine.

Engaging in Social Media...

The UCCA has continued to gain “Likes” of our Facebook Page in 2016, all without paying for additional advertising as most other organizations have in order to increase their reach. On today’s page, all sorts of events in the Ukrainian-American community are shared on our Facebook calendar, and every year we compile a list of Ukrainian Cultural Festivals and Independence Celebrations that take place from May-October annually.

Total Page Likes as of Today: 7,542



With Ukraine still being mentioned in the media regularly, most of UCCA’s social media postings consist of sharing the most relevant news of the day. Interspersed between these will be UCCA press releases, pictures from UCCA events, and calls to action on the local, national and international level.

In 2016, the UCCA began allowing visitors to the UCCA Facebook to sign up to our mailing list electronically. For our fundraising efforts on Giving Tuesday and our Year-End Annual Appeal, we made use of Facebook’s new direct donation option for not-for-profits, processed through Network for Good.

UAV & UMANA...

Join the UCCA!

At the first meeting of the UCCA’s National Council following the XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America, members unanimously approved the membership of the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) into its ranks.

Although the outreach to non-member UCCA organizations began over a year ago under the previous leadership, the newly-elected UCCA Board actively took up the mantle, resulting in two organizations submitting their respective documents for membership. As a result, and on the advice of the UCCA Membership Committee, the Ukrainian American Veterans and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America were unanimously approved as new member organizations by the UCCA National Council.



The UCCA Executive Board warmly welcomes the UAV and UMANA into their ranks and looks forward to a fruitful relationship!

*Please visit us at: UCCA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UCCA.org>,
our D.C.-based UNIS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UNIS>,
and look forward to a revamped UCCA website in 2017.*



UCCA Out Front



Looking Ahead To The Future.....

2017 will be a year of transition, as a new administration enters the White House.

As the crisis/war in Ukraine enters its third year, it is imperative for the Diaspora to speak with one united voice, as we are the only body that can truly impress upon the new U.S. Administration that Ukraine needs help, and that Russian aggression is not only a threat to Ukraine, but to the entire free, democratic world.

Ukraine continues to be the victim of endless Russian cyber-attacks on top of more traditional military assaults in its eastern Donbas region as well as the ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea. The Ukrainian American community must work together to oppose Russia's continuous efforts to undermine the established international order, including their interference in our democratic governance.

The UCCA calls upon the Ukrainian American community to unite its efforts in the interest of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. For the sake of our hromada and our homeland - the time to act is now!

Slava Ukraini!

A sincere Thank You to all the members of the UCCA Executive Board, National Council and UCCA Branches, for their continued guidance and cooperation. Without their support and hard work, various UCCA projects outlined in this Annual Report could never have been so successful. Let us continue to work together for the greater good of our community and Ukraine!

Thank you for being a part of the UCCA Family!

For more information about the work of the UCCA, please visit our website at: www.ucca.org



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