Борітесь – поборете!

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

UCCAO.ORG

UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

Andriy Futey    Stefan Kaczaraj    Michael Sawkiw
President       National Council Chair    Vice-President

Marie Duplak    Myron Kolinsky
Executive Secretary    Treasurer

Brotherhood of Veterans of the 1st-Division of the Ukrainian National Army
Center for US-Ukrainian Relations (CUSUR)
Educational Council of UCCA
Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA)
Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank
Manor College
New Ukrainian Wave
Organization for Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU)
Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (OOL)
Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODWU)
Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America
"Self-Reliance" Association of American Ukrainians
Society of UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army)
The Ukrainian Quarterly
Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA)
Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation (UAFF)
Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV)
Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA/SUM-A)
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
Ukrainian Free University Foundation
Ukrainian Gift of Life
Ukrainian Human Rights Committee
Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA)
Ukrainian National Association (UNA)
Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA)
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Ukrainian Student Association of Mykola Mikhnovsky (TUSM)
United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC)
Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (WADFFU)
2020 was an unprecedented year not only for UCCA, but for our entire global hromada. While much of the world stopped altogether, UCCA did not waver in our mission of representing the Ukrainian American community; indeed, 2020 ended up “virtually” one of UCCA’s busiest. In my heart, I share your conviction that UCCA remain a community-based organization, and I want to once again thank all of our generous supporters who allowed us to continue working during these unprecedented times.

In 2021, our work will continue, as we gradually make our way out of quarantines and lockdowns, one municipality at a time. In what should be a joyous year of celebration for Ukrainians around the world – the 30th Anniversary of Ukraine’s Renewed Independence – many of our events will once again be held virtually or have to be postponed, including UCCA’s XXIII Congress of Ukrainians in America. UCCA remains committed to honor this historic celebration of Ukraine’s freedom. With an incoming 117th United States Congress, and a new presidential administration, now is the time begin laying out specific goals for the next decade, based on the shared belief that the security of the United States and Ukraine rests with the expansion of democracy and mutual security guarantees. I hope we can count on your continued support in this endeavor.
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

If we've learned anything from the this past year, it is that technology and the internet are essential to our community’s everyday life. From the start, UCCA stepped in as a reliable source of information – providing health information in Ukrainian and English, as well as up-to-date notifications about community postponements and cancellations. Mandatory stay-at-home orders, followed by social distancing guidelines, forced UCCA, our member organizations and UCCA's local chapters, to operate much differently than were accustomed to, altering and adjusting our plans out of an abundance of caution.

To this end, UCCA morphed into both an outlet for community distraction - by providing a variety of virtual engaging and educational programs - while continuing our work to assist the Ukrainian nation in its struggle to secure its independence and regain its territorial integrity. On the pages that follow, you will read about many initiatives and positive results from the work UCCA conducted in 2020. (A more complete list can be viewed online at bit.ly/UCCA2020Slideshow) None of these achievements would have been possible without our dedicated staff, our steadfast membership, and the generous support from our Ukrainian financial institutions and community.

UCCA needs your financial support now more than ever. BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

DONATE    MAILING LIST    MEMBERSHIP


www.ucca.org    •    www.facebook.com/UCCA.org
UNITY

UCCA’s central mission has always been, and remains, uniting the organized Ukrainian American community. In speaking with one voice, united, Ukrainian Americans strengthen the power of their advocacy for Ukraine, especially during these critical times for our ancestral homeland.

Today’s UCCA unites nearly 30 national Ukrainian American organizations and dozens of local grassroots chapters under one umbrella – UCCA’s National Council – consisting of representatives of fraternal, educational, veterans, religious, cultural, youth and humanitarian organizations. UCCA is also a founding member of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), the international assembly of Ukrainian public organizations representing over 20 million people, as well as a founding member of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), which coordinates the efforts of national ethnic organizations representing 20 million Americans.

In line with our statutory mandate to “coordinate and consolidate the development of organized Ukrainian life in the United States of America,” UCCA invites every national or local Ukrainian organization, institution, committee, or club in the United States to work as a ratified member organization within UCCA’s National Council.
Over the past 7 years, UCCA has remained at the forefront of generating aid and action in support of a Ukrainian nation under attack by Russia. Our decades of work with the United States government affords UCCA, and our membership, greater access to our elected officials, as well as to the government of Ukraine.
COMMEMORATING THE HOLODOMOR GENOCIDE

NEW YORK CITY

SYRACUSE, NY

OSHKOSH, WI

OHIO

LONG ISLAND, NY

GEORGIA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 3:00 PM (CST)
Virtual Program | Illinois Holocaust Museum

VIRTUAL COMMEMORATION
Remembering the Holodomor: Commemorating the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine
HOLODOMOR REMEMBERANCE

UCCA has advocated throughout its existence for greater awareness and recognition of the Holodomor, Stalin's Famine-Genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians in 1932-1933. From successfully advocating towards Congressional funding to concretely study the matter, to proudly initiating both the U.S. Holodomor Memorial Project (bit.ly/HolodomorNPS) in Washington, D.C., as well as the U.S Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness (ukrainegenocide.com), UCCA remains a staunch promoter for the dissemination of truth about one of the worst cases of man’s inhumanity towards man.

In November 2020, the U.S. Holodomor Committee announced the formation of the Holodomor Descendants' Network (HDN). UCCA encourages all descendants of the Soviet imposed Famine-Genocide against the Ukrainian nation in 1932-33 to remember and share the personal family stories of this horror through the HDN. Only by educating ourselves about the horrors of the past, can we help today’s students learn about genocide and what can be done to stop it from ever happening again.

For those communities that lack a permanent memorial or plaque to the innocent victims of this Genocide of Ukrainians, UCCA can bring 80 years of institutional knowledge to help begin your local initiatives. Year after year, UCCA's Local Chapters organize commemorations to the innocent victims of genocide. We urge local communities to share their events with our national office so that we may share your story across our network.

SHARING THE TRUTH ABOUT UKRAINE

Promoting honest discussion about Ukraine is an important task for UCCA and at the forefront of our work. By utilizing a variety of mediums – seminars, conferences, forums, live-streaming events/videos, interviews (bit.ly/UCCATube) – UCCA seeks to advance issues and foster solutions to current issues and historical themes.

Even during a global pandemic, UCCA organized and co-hosted multiple online events, and broadcast those of our member organizations and local chapters, in an effort to shed light on the truth about Ukraine and her people. Throughout this unprecedented year, UCCA organized various virtual commemorations from the 30th Anniversary of the Revolution on Granite, the 29th Anniversary of Ukraine’s renewed Independence, and even UCCA’s historic 80th Anniversary Celebration.
Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood

Roundtable XXI
Assessing the Human Resources of Ukraine’s Armed Forces

A 75th Year Retrospective of the Ukrainian Experience

US-UA Working Group Yearly Summit VIII
Providing Ukraine with an Annual Report Card
A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

Although the original plans to celebrate UCCA’s anniversary had to be canceled due to these unprecedented times of Covid-19, UCCA rose to the challenge and adjusted its strategy to celebrate this historic anniversary virtually.

OFFICIAL GREETINGS

The co-Chairs of the bipartisan Senate Ukraine and Congressional Ukrainian Caucuses greeted UCCA on its 80 years of service, while the Archbishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia praised UCCA’s mandate of greater unity in our community.

MILESTONES IN HISTORY (1940-2020)

UCCA’s first “Ukrainian American Congress” was held on the 24th of May in 1940, in Washington, D.C. This first truly national gathering of Ukrainians in America was the creation of “a more perfect union,” following on the nascent organizing of Ukrainian American organizations between 1915 and 1939. This accomplishment, and those that came about over the following 8 decades, came to be because of the dedication and tireless efforts of countless volunteers.

To place these 80 years of advocacy into context, UCCA created a decade by decade presentation to help younger members of our community understand the historic accomplishments of our people working in unison. These milestones and other virtual events surrounding UCCA’s 80th Anniversary are archived at https://ucca.org/80years
CELEBRATING UCCA'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY
PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

Since 1953, the Educational Council of UCCA has centralized and coordinated the activities of dozens of Saturday School Programs of Ukrainian Studies. In 2020, the work of the Council – organizing teachers’ workshops, distributing textbooks, and regularly inspecting a network of Ukrainian Schools that stretches from Boston to Los Angeles – was conducted mostly virtually. Following a shutdown of programs that lasted from several weeks to several months in different areas of the country, "Ridna Shkola" programs reset themselves and discovered how to operate remotely.

PROVIDING AID TO UKRAINE AND UKRAINIANS

Thanks to generous donations from the Ukrainian American community, hundreds of thousands of dollars of vital humanitarian assistance was able to be sent to Ukraine in 2020, even during a global pandemic. Since UCCA initiated its founding in 1944, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC.org) has spearheaded assistance for Ukrainian war victims and refugees, and has sent an unprecedented amount of medical supplies and humanitarian aid to Ukraine to assist wounded soldiers, displaced persons and orphans.

In addition to UCCA broadcasting UUARC's fundraising efforts for Ukrainian fire and flood victims in 2020, UCCA issued notices throughout our community to support the humanitarian relief collections organized by the Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, parish appeals from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, initiatives of UCCA's Council on Aid to Ukrainians (RODU), and those of UCCA Local Branches.
CELEBRATING UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

CHICAGO

NEW JERSEY

OHIO

MASSACHUSETTS

TEXAS

BUFFALO, NY
UNITED STATES CENSUS

UCCA urged Ukrainian Americans to respond to the 2020 U.S. Census, asking our community to fill out the space listed under Question No. 9 (RACE or ORIGIN) with the word UKRAINIAN.

UCCA ENCOURAGES VOTER TURNOUT

Only by maximizing the Ukrainian American presence at the polls, will incoming Representatives and Senators understand the importance of continued bipartisan support of Ukraine, and continue to enact vital Congressional funding for our strategic partner.

Following the 2020 political conventions at which the Republican and Democratic parties affirmed their candidates for president of the United States, UCCA, through its Washington, D.C.-based bureau UNIS, sent out a presidential questionnaire to help summarize the campaigns’ overview of U.S. relations with Ukraine. UCCA shared the responses publicly to help encourage Ukrainians in America to head to the polls.

Following the November 3 elections, UCCA/UNIS sent congratulatory letters to members of the Senate Ukraine and Congressional Ukrainian Caucuses, respectively, to fortify the relations established in previous years. UCCA also reached out to President-elect Joseph R. Biden with a letter of congratulations, urging him to fortify relations with Ukraine and reinforce internationally recognized principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.
ADVOCACY

Since 1977, UCCA has maintained a permanent Washington, D.C.-based bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), to assist Ukrainian Americans from across the country in meeting with their elected representatives. In addition to maintaining our relationships with the bipartisan Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in the House of Representatives and the bipartisan Senate Ukraine Caucus, the UNIS office sends out regular ACTION ALERTS to our membership, informing our grassroots activists of the latest initiatives affecting our community.

On behalf of the Ukrainian American community, UCCA’s UNIS office submitted a position paper entitled, “United States Relations with Ukraine” to both the Democratic and Republican National Committees in advance of their respective political conventions in 2020.
ELECTION MONITORING

On October 25th, Ukraine held elections to vote for local legislators throughout the country. These elections were crucial given that they were held under new laws whereby the role of local officials is significantly enhanced due to recent decentralization reforms. Being a vigilant supporter of Ukraine’s democratic development, UCCA once again took an active part in monitoring the local elections. By hosting a delegation of International Election Observers, in cooperation with the Ukrainian World Congress, UCCA played a critical role in enhancing the transparency of the election process in Ukraine’s steady transition to a democratic state.
COMMUNICATING TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

UCCA helps promote the values of Ukrainians in America in a variety of media. The Ukrainian Quarterly (bit.ly/UQsubscribe), the nation’s only English-language journal dedicated to Ukraine, commissions work from U.S. and international scholars. This influential outlet empowers UCCA to disseminate information directly to policy makers.

For those subscribed to our email distribution list (bit.ly/UCCAemails), UCCA sends out weekly alerts about events and actions in communities across the United States. UCCA members, local branches and member organizations also receive a monthly, bilingual UCCA Bulletin.

Over the course of 2020, UCCA staff, elected officers and local volunteers were featured in dozens of television and print interviews in Ukraine and the United States. Please contact UCCA’s national office when you’d like to recommend a Ukrainian voice for your local news outlet.
The XXIII Congress of Ukrainians in America will convene in October 2022

As the health and well-being of the Ukrainian American community is, and should always be, a priority for the leadership of that community, UCCA’s National Council affirmed during the pandemic that UCCA’s 23rd convention will gather in person when conditions are met for a safe return to mass gatherings. Now scheduled for October 2022, UCCA’s convention will once again endeavor to spark civic engagement to maximize the Ukrainian American presence at the polls, with the XXIII Congress of Ukrainians immediately preceding the 2022 Mid-Term Elections in the United States.

A sincere Thank You to all the members of UCCA's Executive Board, National Council and Local 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.

Thank you for being a part of the UCCA Family!

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