

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

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UCCA: REPRESENTING AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1940

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, community-based organization that for almost 75 years has been representing the interests of the Ukrainian community in the United States. Since its founding 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 also coordinates the Educational Council that maintains the Ukrainian Saturday School System in the United States, publishes the only English-language scholarly journal, The Ukrainian Quarterly, provides assistance to Ukrainians in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through its Council on Aid to Ukrainians, and produces feature films on Ukrainian historical topics once banned by Soviet authorities.

Since Ukraine's renewed independence close to 25 years ago, the UCCA has taken an active role in the events unfolding in that country. It has successfully carried out dozens of civic education programs and organized multiple 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.

Currently, 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 to share some highlights of our work in 2014.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

2014 has been a year of extreme challenges for Ukraine and for the worldwide Ukrainian community. What began at the end of 2013 with the EuroMaidan, had by January of 2014 morphed into a full blown "Revolution of Dignity", with Ukrainians demanding their right to live freely in a democratic country. Viktor Yanukovich, the corrupt Russian-backed dictator of Ukraine, fled to Russia in panic. Subsequently presidential, then parliamentary elections were held in a free and fair manner, forming a new western oriented government of Ukraine whose first task would be its greatest – to stand and face outright invasion by Russia. By the end of the year Ukraine had proven to the world, through words, deeds, and sadly, blood, that it is deeply committed to democracy, European values and an independent future.

With Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and its continued aggression and invasion in Eastern Ukraine's Donbas region, 2014 proved to be a demanding year for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. After 23 years of independence, our brethren in Ukraine were called to stand and fight to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we, as their voice before the U.S. Government, rose to stand with them.

Thus, trying to garner assistance to help Ukraine protect its independence and sovereignty, strengthen its defensive capabilities, and overcome its political and economic crisis, became the ultimate priority of our community. As a result, the UCCA committed its efforts to helping Ukraine in as many ways as possible; by organizing and sending humanitarian assistance, advocating on Capitol Hill,

protesting and demonstrating, speaking continuously to the local and international press, meeting with government officials, raising funds to help Ukraine's freedom fighters, and so much more.

Yet, despite the many difficulties that Ukraine has faced this year, we must also be extremely proud of the unity and fortitude our brethren have shown in the face of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and continued aggression in Eastern Ukraine.

Although, it is difficult to look back upon the year without feeling overwhelmed and perhaps even a little pessimistic, we can not overlook the immense feeling of patriotism that has overtaken us all as a global community. Seeing Ukrainians come together in the face of so many hardships has not only vindicated our efforts after so many decades of disillusionment, but has bolstered our spirits and given us the strength to continue to do everything within our power to help restore independence and dignity in Ukraine.

Our Ukrainian American community has much to be proud of. The outpouring of support for Ukraine has been enormous, uplifting and inspirational. From the dozens of humanitarian aid projects initiated, to the hundreds of protests and meetings held – we have united as a community like never before. The strong dedication and deep commitment to defending Ukraine is clear!

We are also extremely proud of the work that the UCCA was able to accomplish during this time. The multitude of projects accomplished this year is hard to encapsulate in just one document, but we hope that this Annual Report will provide you with an overview of the efforts that were undertaken this year. The achievements outlined in this report are just a few from a long list of accomplishments in 2014.

On behalf of the UCCA, I would like to thank all those who have generously contributed, both financially, physically and morally, to our work throughout 2014. Without your support many of the highlights outlined in this report could not have been realized. Your continued assistance, active participation, and generous donations have helped the UCCA to, among other things: inform the U.S. government of our community's concerns; promote the importance of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the need for defense weapons, and represent the interests of our community -- all of which has made 2014 an unprecedented year for the UCCA.

In closing, I turn to you for your continued support, cooperation and input. The challenges faced by Ukraine, as well as our community, still exist while Ukraine's territorial integrity is threatened. We must remain vigilant in the face of these challenges. I believe that together, we can build and strengthen our vibrant Ukrainian American community and assist our brethren in Ukraine. Therefore, I ask all members of our community to search their hearts and offer what assistance they can, be it moral, physical or financial, to help preserve what is ours. Our united efforts are needed now, more than ever. Let us make our collective Ukrainian voice heard – I urge you to encourage your friends and family to join the UCCA today!

In looking forward to working with you all in the coming year, I assure you that I will do my utmost to responsibly serve the UCCA and our community.

Slava Ukrainyi!

Tamara Olexy

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014...

DEFENDING UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

2014 began with the continued EuroMaidan protests when hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians remained on the streets to call for an end to the dictatorship of then president, Viktor Yanukovich and to demand their right to live with dignity. The corrupt Russian-backed government of Ukraine responded with violence, turning their guns on the innocent protesters. The first to fall – the Heavenly Hundred - will forever remain in the hearts of Ukrainians worldwide. These men and women were the first to sacrifice their lives in 2014 so that their families, friends and fellow Ukrainians could know a free and truly independent Ukraine.

For months the protesters stood their ground, united and determined -- refusing to leave the Maidan until Yanukovich resigned and new elections were called. Some said this was the death of Ukraine as they knew it and the birth of a new and truly democratic nation.

The bravery and undeniable fortitude of Ukrainians continue to inspire, as they prolong their battle for freedom against Russia and the Russian-backed terrorists in Eastern Ukraine.

Throughout this past year, the UCCA remained at the forefront of these demanding issues, taking an active role in ensuring that all levels of government were supporting Ukraine's fledgling democracy and her territorial integrity. The UCCA worked diligently to garner U.S. support for Ukraine, by advocating a variety of issues, including: the freezing of assets and visa restrictions on those responsible for the violence; the sanctioning of key sectors of Russia's economy; providing Ukraine's armed forces with immediate operational and defensive capabilities; and, designating Ukraine as a major Non-NATO ally, among other issues.

The main goal of the UCCA throughout 2014 was to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. To assist our brethren, the UCCA employed a variety of methods, some of which are outlined below:

HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

This year more than ever, the UCCA and its Washington, DC public relations office, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), held an unprecedented amount of engagements to advocate our community's concerns. Below is just a sampling of some of the meetings held:

- ❖ *In late January the UCCA Executive Board held a series of high-level meetings in Washington, DC to discuss the current political crisis in Ukraine. UCCA addressed a myriad of issues, including: targeted sanctions against Ukrainian government officials, especially those responsible for the violence; ongoing violations of human and national rights in Ukraine; Russian pressure on Ukraine; U.S. foreign assistance funds for media and NGOs and the urgent need for the U.S. to stand with the peaceful protestors in Kyiv and throughout Ukraine.*
- ❖ *At the request of the UCCA, U.S. Vice President, Joseph Biden, met with representatives of prominent Ukrainian American organizations and churches in the Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. on February 7th. The community thanked the Vice President for his numerous communications with Yanukovich to try to mediate the crisis. The UCCA expressed the need to eliminate violence during the political stalemate.*
- ❖ *On February 15th, the UCCA held various meetings in our nation's capital to address both the continued backsliding of democracy in Ukraine and the upcoming parliamentary elections. Meetings were held with Members of Congress, State Department Officials, and Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States. Discussions focused on the Ukrainian community's*

growing trepidation over the Ukrainian government's assurances to uphold all international norms and ensure a transparent process, both during the pre-election campaign as well as on Election Day.

- ❖ On March 13, 2014, members of the UCCA Presidium met with Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk and Acting Foreign Minister, Andrii Deshchychsia. PM Yatseniuk was in New York to participate in a UN Security Council meeting, which was summoned to discuss the situation in Ukraine. During the cordial and open discussion Prime Minister Yatseniuk updated the UCCA on his meetings held in the US, including one with President Obama on the current situation in Ukraine, particularly the illegitimate referendum in Crimea. Members of the UCCA Presidium expressed their support for the people of Ukraine and stated that we would never recognize the so-called "referendum" in Crimea. The UCCA also informed the Prime Minister of the various efforts that were being made in the U.S. by the UCCA to support and assist Ukraine.
- ❖ In May, August and October, the UCCA held a series of high-level meetings in Kyiv to inform the interim government of the UCCA's efforts to garner support with the U.S. Congress and Administration, as well as to assess the current situation in Ukraine and how best the UCCA could assist its brethren.



ADVANCING OUR POSITION IN WASHINGTON

The Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 passed the United States Senate in the late hours of Saturday, December 13th. With the unanimous consent vote in both chambers, the bill was sent to President Barack Obama's desk for his signature. President Obama signed the Ukraine Freedom Support Act on Thursday, December 18, 2014.

To get to the final vote was no easy feat, however. As Ukraine has been continuously barraged for months by the onslaught of Russian aggression in the forms of military equipment crossing the border, artillery shelling, and troop movement, the Ukrainian American community became resilient in its efforts to assist the land of their forefathers. With pens in hand, picket signs made, and computers at the ready, the Ukrainian community vigorously began their advocacy of assistance to Ukraine from the very beginning of this year.

The passage of HR5859 in the U.S. Congress is a testament to the power of voters, whose voice is not only expressed in the polling booths, but also in the halls of Congress through regular advocacy. Many factors played into the advocacy full-court press for assistance to Ukraine. From the onset of the EuroMaidan in Ukraine and its transformation into the 'Revolution of Dignity', the Ukrainian community made its voice heard distinctly throughout Washington. Beginning in February 2014, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington public-affairs bureau of the UCCA, sponsored the first of four "*Ukrainian Days*" advocacy events in Congress to relate the concerns of the community. While the event was focused on raising awareness of the plight of Ukrainians to live in a free and democratic society away from the pressures and blackmail of Putin's Russia, the seeds were sown for a year filled with Ukraine-related hearings, bills, and resolutions on Capitol Hill.

Ukraine's biggest proponent on Capitol Hill was the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, under the helm of then-chairman Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ). The chairman and his committee held

numerous hearings on Ukraine, each resulting in an opportunity for senators to express their opinions about U.S.-policy towards Ukraine. Sen. Menendez understood his constituency and had met with representatives from the UCCA and held several community meetings with Ukrainian Americans from New Jersey. His support, along with the Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), led to the eventual introduction of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, S2828, in the United States Senate.

Notwithstanding the Senate's keen awareness of the war and crisis in Ukraine, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives also played a vital role in the final outcome of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act. In mid-July, the Ukrainian community once again walked the halls of Congress during the second "*Ukrainian Day*" advocacy event. It was then, that the community representatives began advocating for military assistance to Ukraine to fend off Russian aggression. Community representatives distributed a policy paper which requested the introduction of legislation to provide immediate and basic necessities for Ukraine's military, including: fuel; bullet-proof vests; communications equipment; special ops training; night vision goggles; and, operational and defensive capabilities. Policy papers were distributed also calling for the designation of Ukraine as a Major Non NATO Ally (MNNA) and to proceed with military assistance as stipulated by the MNNA status. MNNA status allows the United States to provide a framework for a bilateral defense relationship and security cooperation with a country, but does not entail a security commitment to that country. It is a means by which the United States can assist countries to defend themselves by conferring a variety of military and financial advantages and privileges that are otherwise not available to non-NATO members.

Following the successful second "*Ukrainian Day*" advocacy event, Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-PA), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus introduced HR5190, the Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014. The bill stipulated \$100 million for security and military assistance to Ukraine, including basic necessities for Ukraine's military, as well as, border security, military reform, and operational and defensive capabilities. The day the bill was introduced, a press conference was held at the steps of the U.S. Capitol and attended by the co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Sander Levin (D-MI) and Jim Gerlach), along with CUC member Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw, Jr., and Lada Pastushak representing the US-Ukraine Business Council. Throughout the August congressional recess, the Ukrainian community diligently contacted and met with their Members of Congress in their home districts to request their co-sponsorship of HR5190.

The apex of efforts for the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 transpired during the month of September. In conjunction with the visit of President Poroshenko in Washington to meet President Obama, UNIS sponsored its third "*Ukrainian Day*" advocacy event. Many Ukrainian community representatives were invited by their elected officials to attend a Joint Session of Congress address by President Poroshenko. While in Washington, the community representatives coordinated their efforts and met with their senators and members of Congress to express the need for defensive military assistance to Ukraine. While Presidents Obama and Poroshenko were meeting in the Oval Office, the UCCA organized a rally in support of Ukraine in front of the White House. Thousands of community representatives and friends from other Central and East European communities attended the rally and called for the United States to come to the aid of its strategic partner and offer Ukraine the necessary defensive weapons to fend off Russian aggression.

As the two presidents discussed the war in Ukraine, the Senate Foreign Relations (SFR) Committee acted promptly on the need for assistance to Ukraine. During its working meeting on September 18th, the SFR Committee deliberated on S2828 and unanimously voted to support the bill and bring it to the Senate floor for a vote. The momentum was palpable as S2828 was "hotlined" for speedy passage in the Senate hours before Congress was to break for the election recess. Passage was not finalized that evening as the unanimous consent vote was held-up by an objection from a Senate office. That objection, however, did not stop the efforts of the Ukrainian community and friends of Ukraine in Congress to push this issue further.

Soon after Congress' return to session following the mid-term elections, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, introduced HR5782, an analogous House bill to

the Senate-version Ukraine Freedom Support Act, S2828. The introduction of HR5782 would make the legislative process smoother as both chambers would agree to the same language and components and not have to meet in 'conference' to resolve discrepancies between two Ukraine-related bills. The bill received ample support from members of Congress as the community requested their congressmen/women to sign onto and co-sponsor the legislation.

One final effort was placed on the community to once again travel to Washington in mid-November to participate in the fourth UNIS-sponsored "*Ukrainian Day*" advocacy event. Assisting in UNIS' efforts to advocate the Ukrainian community's position was the Ad Hoc Committee for Ukraine, which was established as a temporary conglomeration of Ukrainian community and non-Ukrainian organizations. The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee was to advocate for military assistance to Ukraine. Advocates from New Jersey, Connecticut and the greater Philadelphia region, as well as other parts of the country traveled en masse, often in buses, vans or by car pools, to Washington to meet with their congressional delegations.

The endeavors of the Ukrainian community paid off hundred-fold as the Senate version of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, S2828, passed in a hotline vote on Thursday afternoon, December 11 in the U.S. Senate. The bill had several revisions, including the stipulation for MNNA was removed as a compromise for the rest of the bill to pass. The newly-passed version of S2828 was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives, where, the legislative counsel, on closer inspection, noticed that the Russia-sanction language might have an impact on revenue for the United States. Thus, as all bills related to revenue and taxes must originate in the House of Representatives, S2828 and its counterpart HR5782 became a new bill – HR5859. In a call to action by UNIS, the Ukrainian community mobilized and began a feverish campaign to contact the Speaker's office to allow the bill to come to the floor for a vote. The new bill was voted upon by unanimous consent as the last item of business in the House of Representatives before they recessed for the session. The new bill, HR5859, was then referred back to the U.S. Senate for final approval, which passed by unanimous consent on Saturday evening, December 13th. The bill was sent to President Obama's desk to await his signature.

Advocacy of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act was only one facet of assistance which UNIS was advocating in Congress. Daily and weekly meetings with Senate and House Committees and staffers, among them many conversations with the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, respectfully, led to robust engagement on the need for a military component of assistance to Ukraine. Those discussions bore fruit as the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) stipulated assistance for Ukraine. Language in the NDAA bill read as follows: "The NDAA expresses the Sense of Congress that lethal and nonlethal assistance should be provided to Ukraine, and requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on such assistance that has been requested by and provided to Ukraine. The NDAA increases the budget for the DOD's Warsaw Initiative Fund/Partnership for Peace (WIF/PfP) program from \$24.4 million to \$34.4 million to enable U.S. European Command, through military exercises and defense reform efforts, to build the capacity of PfP militaries in order to promote regional stability and to deter Russian aggression...The NDAA authorizes the European Reassurance Initiative, including \$75 million for programs, activities, and assistance to support Ukraine."

The all-encompassing \$1.1 trillion Cromnibus bill for FY2015 (which funds the U.S. government until September 30, 2015) also included budgetary items for Ukraine. In particular, the bill calls for nearly \$140 million in bilateral economic assistance to Ukraine (including loan guarantees); \$47 million for Foreign Military Financing (FMF); and as much as \$502 million to combat Russian aggression in the region (a portion of which may be used for additional loan guarantees for Ukraine). Details of the larger Cromnibus bill are still being reviewed.

One must recognize the many friends of Ukraine on Capitol Hill, but also, the diligent efforts of the Ukrainian community for its painstaking and outspoken advocacy of support for Ukraine. Senators and Members of Congress whose efforts were paramount during the process to legislate assistance to Ukraine included (but was not limited to): Sens. Robert Menendez (D-NJ); Bob Corker (R-TN); John McCain (R-AZ); Christopher Murphy (D-CT); Carl Levin (D—MI); Richard Durbin (D-IL); Ben Cardin (D-MD); Ed Markey (D-MA); Marco Rubio (R-FL); Ted Cruz (R-TX); Richard Blumenthal (D-CT);

Kelly Ayotte (R-NH); Mark Kirk (R-IL); Rob Portman (R-OH); Pat Toomey (R-PA); Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Bob Casey (D-PA); Pat Roberts (R-KS); and, Daniel Coats (R-IN) and Representatives Marcy Kaptur (D-OH); Jim Gerlach (R-PA); Sander Levin (D-MI); Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ); Jim Moran (D-VA); Gerald Connolly (D-VA); William Keating (D-MA); Bill Pascrell (D-NJ); Eliot Engel (D-NY); Mike Quigley (D-IL); Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA); Peter Roskam (R-IL); Steve Stockman (R-TX); Andy Harris (R-MD); Brian Higgins (D-NY); Frank Pallone (D-NJ); Steve Stivers (R-OH); James Renacci (R-OH); David Joyce (R-OH); Lois Frankel (D-FL); Charles Rangel (D-NY). Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) must also be thanked for allowing the Ukraine Freedom Support Act to be brought to the floor for a vote prior to Congress recessing for the holidays. The Ukrainian communities in (but not limited to) Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, Texas, Florida, California, Arizona, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina are to be commended and thanked for their tremendous will and determination to meet with their respective elected officials, travel to Washington, DC for “*Ukrainian Day*” advocacy events, and interact with their local media to promote U.S. assistance to Ukraine in this time of tremendous need. The EuroMaidan in Ukraine began with the ‘power of the people’, and it was evident as that same spirit transcended itself in the Ukrainian community throughout this year. The power of the people...



NATIONAL SHOW OF SOLIDARITY

The UCCA & UNIS also organized several national rallies to show our support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and protest Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and blatant aggression in and invasion of Ukraine.

Mass Protest in Washington D.C.

On March 6th, over 2,000 protestors amassed in front of the White House, and then again at the Russian Embassy to demand Russia withdraw its troops from Crimea. Ukrainian Americans from Chicago, Ohio, Detroit, CT, NY, NJ, PA and other locations, took to the streets of Washington D.C. to protest the intervention of Russian forces in Ukraine and to strongly encourage the U.S. and the European Union to support the people of Ukraine.

Protesters stood amid a sea of Ukrainian, Polish, Estonian, Crimean Tatar and other national flags, waving numerous signs denouncing Russian aggression. Many attendees spoke with the press and offered their opinions on the situation in Ukraine. NBC, BBC and ABC were among the many press agencies covering the rally.

UNIS Director, Michael Sawkiw, served as the rally's MC introducing dozens of speakers including, Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI), Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH); former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Roman Popadiuk; UCCA President Tamara Olexy; and, former UCCA President Askold Lozynskyj.

Also addressing the rally were representatives from the Polish, Hungarian, Georgian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Czech, Slovakian, Circasian, Belarusian, and Crimean Tatar communities; who wanted to show their solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

His Grace Metropolitan Soroka, leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy and His Excellency Daniel, leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. led the crowd in prayer. Protesters sang the Ukrainian national anthem, and shouted "Putin – Hands Off Ukraine", "Crimea is Ukraine", as well as other chants, and heartily thanked the numerous speakers who offered their encouragement and support to Ukrainians.



"Rally to Support Ukraine"

On September 18th, hundreds heeded the UCCA's call and gathered before the White House to greet Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko as he arrived for his meeting with President Barack Obama. UNIS Director, Michael Sawkiw, served as the rally's MC, introducing dozens of speakers which included representatives from the Polish, Hungarian, Georgian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Belarusian, and Crimean Tatar communities; who wanted to voice their support for Ukraine.

Also joining the rally was Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), who was presented with a "*Friend of UNIS*" award for his staunch support of Ukraine. Reading excerpts from President Poroshenko's speech, Congressman Pascrell told those gathered that not only will Russia's occupation of Crimea not be recognized, but it will be reversed.



In addition to the national events, dozens of rallies and EuroMaidans were held throughout the United States to show our solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Just as many demonstrations were held to protest Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and invasion and support of terrorists in eastern Ukraine.



CONFERENCES

An important aspect of the UCCA's work is organizing and participating in conferences. Such forums provide an opportunity to freely exchange ideas and address issues of importance to the Ukrainian American community as well as U.S.-Ukraine relations. In 2014, the UCCA participated in several such forums, some of which are highlighted below:

Implications of the Crisis in Ukraine

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, under the Chairmanship of Senator Robert Menendez, held a hearing on the current crisis in Ukraine on January 15th. The Senator acknowledged that he relied on the UCCA's recommendations provided at an early January 2nd meeting with leaders of the Ukrainian American community in New Jersey. The UCCA submitted testimony during the hearing, which can be found in full on our UCCA website.

UN Briefing on Crimea

On March 14th at the invitation of Ukraine's Ambassador to the UN, Yuriy Sergeyev, UCCA's President Tamara Olexy participated in a press briefing at the UN headquarters in New York together with Jacob Dov Blaikh, Chief Rabbi of Ukraine; Ayla Bakkali, Leader of the Turkish Tatar Community; and Alexandra Sviridov, Russian language independent journalist. The presenters spoke about developments in Ukraine, particularly, in Crimea.

Ms. Olexy provided an overview of the critical situation in Crimea a few days before the planned unconstitutional referendum. She highlighted the fact that Russia's invasion, which violated Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, was based on the false pretense that ethnic Russians were under threat. Her statement was substantiated by both Rabbi Bleich, who stated that the interim government was not fascist and that the Jewish community lived peacefully in Ukraine. Ms. Bakkali relayed personal accounts from the Crimean Tatar indigenous population in Crimea who are fearful of the Russian troops and who vowed to boycott the so-called referendum.

In closing, Ambassador Sergeyev noted that minorities in Ukraine are not in danger. He reiterated the words of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Astrid Thors, who recently visited Kyiv and Crimea and "found no evidence of violations or threats to the rights of Russian speakers."

STATEMENTS

The UCCA also issued statements to inform our government officials, the mass media and the Ukrainian American community of our concerns. Examples of such timely statements include:

- November - UCCA Marks the First Anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity
- 27 October- Preliminary Election Statement: Ukraine Continues its Democratic Path with Free and Fair Elections
- September - UCCA Welcomes President Obama's Remarks
- August - While U.S. Imposes New Sanctions on Russia, Military Assistance Is Still Sought
- August - 23rd Anniversary of Ukraine's Renewed Independence
- June - Open Letter to President Obama
- May - UCCA Urges Further U.S. Action to Alleviate the Crisis in Ukraine
- April - UCCA Urges Immediate Action from the U.S. [Pertaining to the massive build-up of Russian troops along Ukraine's Eastern border]
- March – Open Letter to Rusyny
- March - UCCA Does Not Recognize "Referendum" in Crimea
- March - UCCA Condemns the "Referendum" in Crimea
- March - UCCA Calls for Bipartisanship in US Policy on Standing up to Russian Aggression
- March - Stand Strong and You Will Overcome! 200th Anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko

- March - Statement Regarding Refugee Status for Ukrainian Citizens in the United States
- March - The UCCA Welcomes US Support for Ukrainian Territorial Integrity
- March - UCCA Urges U.S. Action Against Russian Invasion
- February - UCCA Calls on U.S. to Support Ukraine's New Interim Government
- February – UCCA Calls on International Community to Support Ukrainian Economic Restructuring
- February - UCCA Condemns Yanukovych's Bloody Thursday
- January - Yanukovych Must GO!
- January – Ukrainian Americans – The Time for General Mobilization is NOW! ,
- January - When injustice becomes law, rebellion becomes duty." Thomas Jefferson
- January – UCCA Testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- January – Crisis in Ukraine – Background and Recommendations

The UCCA's statements can be read in their entirety on the UCCA website at: www.ucca.org.

ACTION ITEMS:

Dozens of Action Items were disseminated to garner grassroots support and mobilize our community to support/advocate various issues. A few examples are listed below:

- ❖ Freezing the assets and visa restrictions against the thugs organizing the attacks on the peaceful protestors
- ❖ Urging FIFA to revoke the privilege of Russia to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup
- ❖ Urging the U.S. to invite newly-elected President, Petro Poroshenko for a State Visit
- ❖ Support Major Non-NATO Status for Ukraine
- ❖ Support Companion Bill to S.2828



POROSHENKO ADDRESSES JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Following a grassroots effort initiated by the UCCA, in which the community actively participated, Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL) initiated a “Dear Colleague” letter urging Speaker of the House, John Boehner to invite President Petro Poroshenko to address a joint session of Congress. The letter was supported by close to 50 members of Congress and culminated with a rare invitation from Speaker Boehner to President Poroshenko to address a joint meeting of Congress.

Thus, on September 18, UCCA Board members – Tamara Olexy, Andrij Futey, Stefan Kaczaraj, Marie Duplak, Roksolana Lozynskyj, Michael Sawkiw joined the delegation of Ukrainian Americans, who had been invited to sit in the chamber of the House of Representatives as President Poroshenko addressed Congress.

President Poroshenko's historic address to the Joint Session of Congress was warmly received and supported as evidenced by a standing ovation from the fully packed chamber. During his remarks, Poroshenko made clear that his country needed lethal aid in order to combat the pro-Russian separatists who are often backed by direct Russian military support so that his nation can build “a strong, modern army that we can be proud of.” He also noted that Ukraine's war against Russia is a war for “freedom, democracy, and European values.” “I urge you not to let Ukraine stand alone in the face of this aggression!”

Following the address, a private reception for President Poroshenko was hosted by Speaker Boehner in the Capitol.

BANQUET TO HONOR PRESIDENT POROSHENKO

A banquet in honor of President Petro Poroshenko was organized by the UCCA, together with the Reception Committee, and held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City on September 25, 2014. The banquet provided a unique opportunity for the Ukrainian American community to show its support by welcoming President Poroshenko to New York City. The intent was to show that our community stands united with our brethren in Ukraine, especially during this time of crisis! As a result, over 800 people gathered at the Waldorf Astoria Grand Ballroom to impress upon President Poroshenko that we, as a community, stand united with Ukraine and its people in their fight for freedom. Unfortunately, due to last minute schedule changes, President Poroshenko was unable to come to the U.S., and so Prime Minister Yatseniuk traveled to New York in his stead to address the United Nations General Assembly, and attended the banquet on behalf of the President.

All proceeds from the banquet went directly to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc. (UUARC) to assist in its humanitarian aid mission to help the Ukrainian Army, the National Guard and the families of the soldiers of Ukraine. Due to the overwhelming attendance at the September 25th Banquet a donation of \$40,000 was made to the UUARC.

UCCA DELEGATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS

Deeming that International Election Observers play a critical role in enhancing the transparency of the election process, and understating that elections are crucial to strengthening democracy in Ukraine, the UCCA once again took an active part in monitoring the May Presidential and October Parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

May Presidential Elections

The UCCA, as in previous years, hosted a delegation of International Election Observers to monitor Ukraine's snap presidential elections on Sunday, May 25th. The UCCA Mission deployed 222 international observers to monitor the Parliamentary elections in 14 oblasts of Ukraine, as well as at diplomatic missions in the United States. The UCCA's Observer Mission distinguished itself by developing and utilizing the first ever on-line reporting system.

The day after the elections, UCCA Co-Mission Heads, Tamara Olexy and Andrij Futey, issued a preliminary statement of the UCCA International Election Observer Mission at the *Ukraine Crisis Media Center* in Kyiv. The Preliminary Statement was titled, "Ukrainians Demonstrate their Commitment to Democracy", and read in part, "...The UCCA affirms that the May 25th elections met international standards for free and fair elections and accurately reflected the will of the Ukrainian electorate. The UCCA's 222 International Election Observers monitored the elections in over 600 polling sites in every region of Ukraine, including- Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Sumy, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhya, and Zhytomyr; as well as at diplomatic posts in the United States". The statement also underscored the fact that the UCCA abhorred the Soviet-style methods used by the Russian-backed armed terrorists to disrupt the elections in the East and commended the brave citizens of Donetsk and Luhansk who cast a ballot in the presidential elections. The UCCA also lauded the thousands of Ukrainian citizens of Crimea, including the Crimean Tatar community, who risked their personal safety to exercise their civic duty and traveled long distances to vote.

The Preliminary Statement can be read in its entirety on the UCCA website at www.ucca.org



The UCCA is Awarded a Grant from NED to Conduct Pre-Election Civic Education Program

On April 10, the UCCA was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to conduct their “Electing the New Ukrainian President” civic education program. The project was developed to promote informed voting and foster public discussion on key issues ahead of the May 2014 presidential elections.

The 2-month civic education program included a series of seven regional Town Hall meetings aired on public radio stations in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Poltava, Kirovograd, and Odessa with the goal of facilitating political engagement and building confidence in the interactive relationship between citizens and their elected officials. In a departure from the traditional Town Hall meeting that brings together voters and candidates, this format allowed for the Fourth Estate and social media to serve as stewards of the electorate, engaging political parties and blocs on their behalf. During the nonpartisan town hall meetings, candidates and representatives of political parties and coalitions answered questions put to them by the press and the public.

The hour long Town Hall meetings were broadcast live during prime listening hours. Each program familiarized listeners with the pre-election programs of Ukraine’s presidential candidates. To do this, representatives of every candidate, without exception, were invited as guests to the program.

Mr. Oleksandr Piddubny, a journalist with years of experience in television, radio and online media served as host for the radio programs. Broadcasts were divided into sub-topics that appeared in the platforms of most presidential candidates: security, power/energy conversion, reporting and control of the election process, and foreign policy.

The program stirred great interest among the populace, as the series became the only opportunity for voters to pose questions directly to the presidential candidates or their representatives.

The entire “Choosing a New President” series is available online at MixCloud - <http://www.mixcloud.com/UCCA/>.

The “Electing the New Ukrainian President” program did not support any political party or bloc; rather it encouraged Ukraine’s voters to acquaint themselves with the platforms and positions of various parties and blocs, to empower the electorate to make a rational and considered decision when they went to the polls on May 25th.

Financial support for the program was received from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

October Parliamentary Elections

The UCCA conducted an International Election Observer Mission made up of 105 officially registered observers, which monitored the early parliamentary elections in Ukraine held on October 26, 2014.

Prior to the elections the UCCA held a comprehensive all-day training session for their observers during which they were briefed on how best to serve as monitors. The session also instructed the observers on how to utilize the first of its kind on-line reporting system, which enables the UCCA to have real-time information on Election Day.

The UCCA deployed its observers to monitor the parliamentary elections in 9 oblasts of Ukraine as well as at diplomatic posts in the United States and Dublin.

The UCCA International Election Observer Mission concluded that the elections were conducted in a free and fair manner and presented its findings at a Press Conference on Monday, October 27th.

The UCCA’s preliminary statement entitled, “Ukraine Continues its Democratic Path with Free and Fair Elections” highlighted the fact that the UCCA observed the elections in nine regions of Ukraine, including: Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhzhia and Zhytomyr, as well as at diplomatic posts in the United States and Dublin. The UCCA’s 105 short-term election observers visited close over 300 polling sites in urban, suburban and rural areas, and despite

minor infractions deemed that the elections were conducted in a peaceful, transparent and democratic manner.

The Preliminary Statement can be read in full on the UCCA's website at www.ucca.org.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) – is one of the few non-governmental organizations, and the only Ukrainian American community organizations, registered with Ukraine's Central Election Commission. The UCCA has been actively involved in hosting delegations of International Election Observers to Ukraine since 1991.



UKRAINE'S GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933 - HOLODOMOR

Each year, the UCCA solemnly commemorates one of the darkest pages of our history – the Genocide of 1932-1933. Below please find a review of the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor.

Thousands gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday, November 22nd to mark the 81st anniversary of Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933. The event began with a solemn procession organized by the UCCA New York City Branch headed by Ivanka Zajac. Following the procession, His Excellency Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, welcomed the faithful before the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches concelebrated a memorial service dedicated to the victims of the Holodomor.

Following the memorial service, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy delivered remarks in which she reminded those in attendance that the Holodomor "is but one example of Russia's ongoing campaign to enslave Ukraine..."

Following her remarks William Pope, Senior Advisor for Europe to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, delivered the Statement by the White House Press Secretary on Holodomor Remembrance Day. Mr. Ihor Sybiga, Ukraine's Consul General of NY, then read a portion of President Petro Porosenko's statement, which was followed by an eloquent statement by Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA concluded the requiem service by thanking Archbishop Timothy Dolan for graciously allowing our community to commemorate the Holodomor at St. Patrick's Cathedral and reminding everyone that it is our sacred duty to become the voice of the victims of the Holodomor.

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), who has routinely participated in the UCCA's Holodomor Commemoration, was unfortunately unable to attend this year as he was in Buffalo helping the victims of one of the worst snow storms ever to hit the area. In his absence, the Senator sent a letter to the UCCA, which reads in part:

"I regret that I am unable to attend this year's remembrance, the 81st Anniversary of the Holodomor...our responsibility to remember the abuses of history takes on a new light this year – a year marked by violence and political upheaval in Ukraine...the Russian-backed separatism in Eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea was, and continues to be, unacceptable and abhorrent to me...the United States will always stand shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine and its people – a country who rightly has an expectation that their sovereignty not be questioned, and a people who have a right to live in peace and self-determination...In light of these troubling times, let this anniversary be a reminder that even in the most difficult circumstances, the Ukrainian people will endure, survive and eventually thrive...Even in my absence on this anniversary, know that I remember with you, this year and every year hereafter."



White House Press Secretary Issues Statement

On November 21st, the Press Secretary of the White House issued a Statement on Holodomor Remembrance Day. The text of the statement reads in part:

“...The Holodomor, or “death by hunger,” remains one of the gravest atrocities of the last century and is a singularly tragic chapter in Ukrainian history.

While the suffering of the Holodomor was immeasurable, this man-made famine failed to extinguish the unconquerable spirit of the Ukrainian people. As we commemorate this horrific tragedy, we also pay tribute to the enduring strength, courage, and spirit of the people of Ukraine – qualities that Ukrainians continue to draw upon today as, in the face of great adversity, they seek to build a more prosperous, secure, and democratic state...”

UN Conference dedicated to the 81st Anniversary of the Holodomor

On December 9th, the Ukrainian Mission to the UN hosted a special conference dedicated to the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor. The Conference, which was held at the Dag Hammarskjold Library, opened with remarks by Ambassador Yuri Sergeyev, Ukraine’s Permanent Representative to the UN, who reminded those in attendance that the Holodomor was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. Following his remarks, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, underscored the fact that “...today we are gathered here to mark the 81st anniversary of the Holodomor – on the same day that the text of the “Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 66 years ago... The Holodomor is but one example of Russia’s ongoing campaign to enslave Ukraine... Yet the Ukrainian people’s endurance during the horrors of the Holodomor 81 years ago, their bravery during the Maidan last year, and their steadfast fortitude during the present day struggle in Eastern Ukraine are all testimonies of the commitment of the Ukrainian people to live with dignity in a democratic and sovereign nation.”

Additional speakers included Rabbi David Lincoln, former spiritual leader of the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City; and, Professor Walter Zaryckyj. Conference participants then had an opportunity to view excerpts of the well-known film “Harvest of Despair”, followed by a solemn musical performance by Maksym Lozynskyj and Ksenia Kaczurak. A special performance was also given by “Kolaydnyky” [carolers] from Ukraine. Marta Kokolska, a member of the UCCA National Council, served as the event’s Mistress of Ceremonies.

UCCA NATIONAL OFFICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The UCCA National Office continues its successful internship program, providing young members of our community, as well as American students, with an opportunity to better acquaint themselves with Ukraine and gain valuable experience working on issues of concern to the Ukrainian American community. The UCCA National Office has a long-time relationship with various universities in the NYC area as well as with several national and international schools. In addition to our University Internship Program, the UCCA has a working relationship with the local Ukrainian Catholic High School – St. George Academy – where 12th grade students can volunteer their time at the National Office in order to fulfill

their mandatory community service requirements before graduating. The UCCA takes great care to tailor the internship to each student's interests and skills in an effort to provide the best work experience possible.

UCCA BRANCHES: NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES

Due to the on-going Russian aggression and invasion of Ukraine, many UCCA Branches valiantly took up humanitarian aid efforts to assist our freedom fighters in Ukraine and continued protesting Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and invasion of Ukraine. To maintain contact and to help coordinate actions, the UCCA began to hold regular conference calls with its branches.

Representing the interests of the Ukrainian American community in various locations, the UCCA Branches organized numerous successful events around the country. Below are highlight from just a few UCCA Branches.

"SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE" WAS THE MANTRA OF THE NYC BRANCH

What started with continuous demonstrations protesting the illegal annexation of Crimea and Russian-sponsored aggression in Donbas, and was followed by the formation of the *American European Security Council*, culminated with the adoption of the 25th Kyivska Rus" battalion. 2014 proved to be an extremely busy year for the UCCA NYC branch, under the leadership of Ivanka Zajac, as they tirelessly worked to support the 25th Territorial Defense Battalion Kyivska Rus, by continuously sending humanitarian aid packages filled with winter clothing, military equipment and medical supplies to assist the individuals who valiantly volunteered to protect their country. In addition to providing assistance to the 25th battalion, the NYC Branch, in partnership with the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine (OOL), spearheaded a Warm Clothes Drive for families displaced by the war in Ukraine's East, where over 1,000 pounds of humanitarian aid was sent to Ukraine.

Moreover, in an effort to unite the eastern European ethnic communities in NYC and promote the values of Freedom, Democracy and Opportunity in their countries of origin, the UCCA NYC branch initiated the formation of the *American European Security Council (AESC)*. The aim of the AESC is to inform Americans of the dangers Russian expansionist actions pose to the national interests of the United States, as well as the national interests of its allies around the world. This Council's activities promote Western Democratic values and the strengthening of Trans-Atlantic ties and aspirations through raising awareness of the history, culture and human rights issues of the various ethnic groups involved, by facilitating relations among ethnic communities residing within the United States in order to promote friendship and cooperation.

The branch also organized a series of protests to condemn Russian aggression in Ukraine, arranged for a Memorial Services for the Heavenly Hundred, Victims of Malaysia Flight MH17 and Crimean Tatars, participated with the Polish community in commemorating the 4th anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster; coordinated an event opposing Russia's attempt to annex Crimea with Congresswoman Maloney, the Crimean Tatar and Georgian communities, to name a few.

HARTFORD PROVED THAT GRASSROOTS EFFORTS TRULY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

Over this difficult year for Ukraine, the UCCA Hartford Branch, which has been active in our community since 1950, rallied like never before. It was thanks to their efforts of continuously informing their legislators that members of Congress from Connecticut became active vocal supporters of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The members of the branch met with United States Senators Chris

Murphy & Richard Blumenthal, as well as Connecticut's Congressional Delegation including John Larson, Joe Courtney, Rosa DeLauro, Elizabeth Esty and James Himes during Ukrainian Days in Washington, DC on July 16th, September 17th & 18th and November 18th & 19th, as well as during regular meetings in their district offices. They kept in constant contact with their legislators since the beginning of Maidan (Revolution of Dignity), during the election of Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko in May 2014 and during Ukraine's Parliamentary Elections in October 2014. They continue to monitor the current situation in Ukraine and keep our Connecticut legislators informed. Connecticut proved that getting back to the basics of grassroots advocacy can truly make a difference.

YONKERS BOASTS A BUSY YEAR...

UCCA Yonkers Branch was very active this year in all aspects of community life. Along with its annual branch activities, including, holding yearly elections, obtaining a proclamation from their City Hall to honor the victims of the Holodomor, honoring Ukraine's independence day, working with their local Representatives and Senators to garner support for Ukraine, and participating in national UCCA activities, the branch dedicated much time to collecting humanitarian aid to help the soldiers in Ukraine. In November, they shipped 3 large 70 lb containers to the city of Zhydachiv in Eastern Ukraine for soldier distribution. In addition the branch coordinated medical supplies to be sent through UUARC in order to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The UCCA Yonkers branch also held a photo-session with the Mayor of Yonkers in support of Maidan, worked with Senator Stuart Cousins to sponsor Bill S 04107 which would allow schools to adopt a curriculum about the Holodomor, met with Senator Schumer to discuss the crisis in Ukraine, organized the placing of a wreath by Congressman Elliot Engel in Kyiv in Memory of the Heavenly Hundred and also awarded the Congressman at the annual Heritage Festival in Yonkers, and conducted a food drive, together with the local UAYA (CYM) branch in memory of the victims of the Holodomor.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ABOUNDS....

The UCCA applauds the countless hours of humanitarian work undertaken throughout 2014. The enormous charity and goodwill of our community has helped to support our brethren and freedom fighters in Ukraine. From the massive shipments of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, to the individual fundraising efforts, our community has donated an extraordinary amount to help Ukraine during this most difficult year. Below are just a few examples of our community's generosity...

The **Ukrainian Cultural Center of Los Angeles** donated two ambulances, which were blessed by Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine Filaret, before being transferred to the Commander of the 11th Battalion "Kyivan Rus" Alexei Savich and sent to the war zone in mid December.

The community in **Washington/Baltimore** metropolitan region has adopted the newly-formed 37th Zaporizhsky Territorial Volunteer Battalion. This battalion, which is of strategic significance, stretches down to the Sea of Azov along a strip of land that is the next likely target of the Russian invasion route as it is a significant land corridor to Crimea. The battalion is in desperate need to supplies and equipment for its volunteers.

The **United Ukrainian America Relief Committee** (UUARC), a member organization of the UCCA, has sent an enormous amount of assistance to Ukraine. At the end of 2014 alone, three containers of humanitarian aid were shipped to Ukraine, in addition to 77 individual humanitarian aid boxes (weighing 50 lbs. each), which were sent to the ATO and Kyiv Military Hospital.

UUARC is also conducting a fundraising campaign for the humanitarian needs for the Ukrainian Army and National Guard, and their families. The UUARC has also instituted an

“adopt a wounded Soldier” campaign to help heal these brave freedom fighters in Ukraine. To find out more about the work of the UUARC, please visit their website at: www.uuarc.org



CREATION AND REVITALIZATION OF UCCA BRANCHES...

Ukrainian American Society of Texas

The Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is pleased to announce that the Ukrainian American Society of Texas (UAST) has become an official member organization of the UCCA.

As per the UCCA's bylaws, organizations may become members of the UCCA if they support a deep dedication to the Ukrainian people and the principles of the UCCA. All applications for membership are reviewed by the UCCA Membership Committee, which is authorized and required to ensure that all membership requirements are met. After reviewing all of the relevant documentation submitted by the UAST, the Membership Committee recommended approval by the National Council of the UCCA.

Thus, at the most recent meeting of the National Council, members unanimously voted to include the UAST into its ranks.

The UCCA warmly welcomes the Ukrainian American Society of Texas (UAST), and Chrystya Geremesz, UAST President, as its representative to the UCCA National Council and looks forward to a fruitful and productive working relationship with the Ukrainian American Society of Texas.


Detroit Revitalized

After many years of inactivity, the UCCA SE Michigan (Detroit) Branch was revitalized! The newly-elected member of the board include: Vasyl Perets, President; Andriy Duzyj, Vice President; Eugene Repeta, Treasurer; and Vira Kutcyj, Secretary; and Michael Andriaschko, Myron Fedoriv, Fr. Valeriy Kandyuk, Roman Pavliv, Met Wroblewski as members.

Syracuse Revitalized

UCCA Executive Secretary Marika Duplak and UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw, Jr. visited the Syracuse, NY region to meet with Ukrainian community activists. The goal was the revitalization of the Syracuse community and its local UCCA Branch. A temporary Organizing Committee was formed to cultivate new membership with the UCCA branch.





A sincere Thank You goes out 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!

Slava Ukrainyi!

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization as defined under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

All donations to the UCCA and its various committees are tax deductible.

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

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