

Союз Українок Канади



Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada

National Office

Lesia Perritt, President

10611 - 110 Avenue NW

Edmonton, Alberta T5H 1H7

Telephone 780.465.5440

email <info@uwac-national.ca>

December 2015 Newsletter

GREETINGS

The National Executive of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC) extends warmest greetings to the Hierarchs, Clergy, Chancellor, Consistory Board and all members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. May you receive God's blessings of good health and peace during the celebration of the Nativity of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and throughout the new year. *Христос Рождается! Славім Його!*

Best wishes to all UWAC branches as you hold your Annual General Meetings. **Congratulations** and **thank you** to all women who have served, and who will serve on executives and committees. I wish you much success in your organizational work in 2016 and a hearty welcome to all new members! На многі літа!

~ Lesia Perritt, President

UWAC CONVENTION, AUGUST 2015

Convention Booklets are available if your branch has not received a copy. Please contact the National Office at the address above. Unfortunately, the report sent in by the UWAC Hanka Romanchych Branch in Saskatoon, SK was inadvertently omitted from the Convention Booklet. A copy of the report is included later of this Newsletter.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted at the UWAC Convention in August 2015.

1. Change to Article VIII in the UWAC Constitution (pg. 10) to read:

Article VIII.3 n) A.

6) National and International

- i) Human Rights
- ii) Social and Economic Inclusion
- iii) Sustainability
- iv) Humanitarianism
- v) Leadership/Stewardship/Governance
- vi) Orthodoxy and Faith Literacy

2. Be it resolved that the Provincial Executives of the UWAC encourage and facilitate branches within their jurisdiction in the pursuit of joint activities with the branch of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada in their area by providing support, cooperation and resources where possible.
3. Be it resolved that
 1. Each local branch be encouraged to celebrate an area related to a church holy day and/or a cultural celebration;
 2. The UWAC Provincial Executive coordinate and provide encouragement and assistance to the local branches, e.g. resources, advice;
 3. Other branches and parishes be encouraged to support the events created and
 4. A collection of these celebrations be compiled by the UWAC National Executive in celebration of the UWAC 90th anniversary in 2016.The resolution also included detailed suggestions for successful implementation.

4. Be it resolved that members and local branches of UWAC support recognition and celebration of the life and work of Taras Shevchenko by attending commemorative events and projects and/or by sponsoring commemorative events of their own, and that members and local branches of UWAC share video vignettes and photographs of Shevchenko commemorative events and activities on the special Facebook page of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress at <www.facebook.com/Shevchenko200>
5. Be it resolved that members of UWAC support Ukrainian internment issues by visiting and viewing the various plaques dedicated to the Ukrainian internment in their communities, and that the Provincial Executives of UWAC write letters of thanks to their Members of the Parliament of Canada for their official recognition of the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during the World War 1 period of 1914-1920.
6. Be it resolved that members of UWAC write letters of thanks to the Members of Parliament for Canada's support of Ukraine's recovery and for Ukraine's military forces, and that members of UWAC, along with their families, be encouraged to pray for the safety, well-being and continued sovereignty and independence of the Ukrainian State.
7. Be it resolved that members of local branches of UWAC be encouraged to approach new Ukrainian immigrant women and invite them to attend the next meeting of UWAC at the local branch and to become UWAC members.
8. Be it resolved that members of UWAC be encouraged to support Holodomor Genocidal Awareness efforts by attending Holodomor Genocide memorial events held in their communities and by visiting the various Holodomor Genocide monuments in Canada and by encouraging others to do so.

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90th ANNIVERSARY

The year 2016 marks the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada. Although individual branches may plan a special event to mark this anniversary, you are encouraged to focus on Resolution #3 as a means to celebrate an event as usual, with an added dimension. The following further describes the intent and process for this Resolution.

The UWAC National Office hopes to collect the unique religious and cultural traditions practiced in our parishes across the country. For instance, in addition to the Divine Liturgy or other service, how does your branch or parish celebrate the Pentecost, St. Nicholas Day, the Eve of Theophany or the blessing of Easter baskets? How do you commemorate Soul Saturday, Lazarus Saturday, *Holodomor* or the Transfiguration of the Lord?

We encourage branches to select one special event in your parish which may or may not be listed above, describe the significance of this day and how you observe it, include related biblical readings, if applicable, and photos. Please send all your documentation of the event to the UWAC National Office **by December 31, 2016** for compilation and publication. In this way, your branch will contribute to a valuable teaching tool and an archival history of the religious and cultural practices in the Ukrainian Orthodox community in Canada.

UWAC MEMBERSHIP in ORGANIZATIONS

UWAC is a paid member of the following organizations.

- Ukrainian Self Reliance League (USRL)
- World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO)
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC)
- Ukrainian World Congress (UWC)
- National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)

The National Executive receives information from these organizations, provides input as required, and disseminates information to UWAC Provincial Executives for distribution to their respective local branches.

ANKETA – QUESTIONNAIRE

Please note that in January your branch will be receiving a revised *Anketa*/Questionnaire form for completion by **April 1, 2016**. Please understand that it is **very important** to submit the form to the National Office by the deadline date. This is necessary so that the activities of branches may be accurately reflected in our UWAC National reports to organizations listed in the previous section. We need adequate time to properly compile all the data from our branches and to write up our reports; the deadline for the National Office to submit reports to national and international organizations is June 1.

WELCOME PACKAGES, PINS, YEARS-OF-MEMBERSHIP BARS & CERTIFICATES

A Welcome Package is available for all new Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC) members. Branches may purchase the Welcome Package for distribution to new members at a cost of \$20 per package. It includes a *smoloskyp* (torch) pin and a bookmark indicating *smoloskyp* significance, the Constitution and By-Laws, a brief history booklet, a brochure about the organization, a sample issue of *Promin*, and the protocol for forming a UWAC honour guard at Memorial and Funeral services.

Years-of-membership bars for the Smoloskyp, and Certificates are available for every 5 years of membership up to, and including 80 years of membership in the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada.

Branch Certificates will be awarded to UWAC branches celebrating significant anniversaries. Please let us know when your Branch is celebrating a special milestone so that we can forward a certificate in recognition of the occasion.

A NEW Certificate is now available for presentation to a **non-member**, male or female, who has made exceptional contribution with his/her voluntary support or assistance to a UWAC branch. You can acknowledge their dedication with this special certificate. Thank you to Vera Melnyk of Toronto for suggesting such a certificate be made.

When ordering any of the fore-mentioned items from the National UWAC Office, please allow adequate time for assembling orders and shipping.

OUR HISTORY

You are encouraged to read about the history of our organization. A brief history of the first 85 years was written by Zennia Yuzik, National President from 2007-2011, and is available from the National Office. An extensive history for the first 50 years of the organization, 1926 to 1976, was published in 1986. We expect to publish the detailed history of the 25-year period, 1976 to 2001, in 2016.

ADDITIONAL REPORT to the UWAC CONVENTION, AUGUST 2015

UWAC Hanka Romanchych Branch Saskatoon, SK

The executive and members of Hanka Romanchych Branch wish to extend warm greetings to all of the UWAC branches, the CYC delegates from across Canada and the 59th Convention organizing committee.

Our UWAC members are devoted to the goals and objectives set out by the UWAC, some of which date back to the founding of the association in 1926, and remain relevant until this day. It is in accordance with these guidelines that we provide financial assistance to our UOCC and the various projects and organizations we choose to support.

Our branch has generously donated and supported the UOCC All Saints Parish with over \$20,000.00 during the past two years. We have also been actively involved in maintaining the church sanctuary by cleaning the sacristy, vestments, drapes, altar areas, and changing of the cloths for the seasons. Our UWAC has taken on the responsibility of making the prospory for All Saints and Ilarion Residence Liturgical Services.

We continue to promote the UWAC and introduce new members to our association. We are fortunate to have the Ilarion Senior Residence close to the church. Many ladies who move there from the rural areas join us in our projects. The Hanka Romanchych Branch values the contribution of all of our members and in February we hold a Senior Appreciation tea at Ilarion Residence. Last year, we donated to the Central Eparchy Humanitarian Project by hosting a lunch and a showing of a DVD related to the project. The year 2014 also marked the 200th anniversary of Taras

Shevchenko's birth and our branch held its' membership tea. His anniversary was the focus of our program. Annual fundraising projects for our branch are the Christmas and Easter Teas as well as the fowl supper in October.

Our cookbook publication "From Baba with Love" was launched a couple of years ago. This publication is in its 4th printing and combines the celebration of festive seasons and feast days along with a recipe section. It has been a labour of love and has been well received nationally and internationally.

Our parish does not have a CYMK-UOY branch, however, the youth and children of our parish and beyond are encouraged to participate in our activities. Dance and choir groups are promoted and financially supported. We encourage young people within our parish to work with our branch members on projects. The past couple of years our parish president initiated kolachi and paska /babka making workshops. Young people ages 8- 20 attended and enjoyed these art and culture projects. The plan is to continue and expand on these types of activities.

The UWAC Hanka Romanchych Branch supports Promin, the benevolent fund, organizational fund and publication fund. We also contribute to St. Andrews College, St. Petro Mohyla Institute, UOCC Central Eparchy, CYC Foundation, UOCC Foundation, Project Lubov, Ukrainian Voice, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, UCC National, Ukrainian summer camps, Shevchenko Foundation, Saskatchewan Orthodox Women's Retreat, and the Ukrainian Museum of Canada of the UWAC. We support the Karpaty pavilion at Folk fest, a multi-cultural event, by providing food and equipment. This involves a year of cabbage roll making, sauce for desserts, freezing beets and making many pails of borsch for the event. This pavilion is enjoyed by over 30,000 visitors each year.

We work within the community by hosting a yearly birthday party for seniors at St. Joseph's Personal Care Home. This is an afternoon event of tea and entertainment.

Our members are involved in organizations working toward the good of our community. We support the

Salvation Army, Friendship Inn, EGADZ Youth, and other efforts to help the less fortunate. In the past year we have joined with the other Orthodox Churches in Saskatoon to help the homeless. This group is called FOCUS (Fellow Orthodox Christians United in Service).

General monthly meetings are held from September to May, with the exception of January. During the winter months we hold the meetings at Ilarion Residence to ensure all of our members are able to participate. We begin with an educational component at the start of our meetings.

At our June "Super Salad Supper", we included one idea which was presented at our 2013 Convention. The "quilt project" which was an interesting concept, was well received and we intend to continue this idea when we celebrate our "Woman of the Year" for her exceptional contributions to our Branch at our event this June.

Maintaining a vibrant association is a challenge and our branch is fortunate to have leaders who present many fruitful ideas and generously work at them. Our goal is to recruit new members and work together in respectful co-operation for the betterment of all.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Humen, President
Hanka Romanchych Branch

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH UWAC BELONGS



USRL AWARDS, 2015

From the USRL Website: "Awards of Excellence are presented to individuals who have made major contributions to the CYC/USRL family of organizations or have provided exemplary service to the Ukrainian Orthodox community in Canada or elsewhere or to society as a whole."

At the USRL Convention in August, 2015, fourteen members received the **Award of Excellence**. Congratulations to the following recipients.

Irka Balan, UWAC, Winnipeg, MB
 Sonia Bremner, UWAC, Regina, SK
 Sophia Kniaz, UWAC, Vernon, BC
 Very Rev. Dr. Oleh Kravchenko, USRA, Wpg., MB
 Gerald Luciuk, USRA, Regina, SK
 Dobr. Larysa Makarenko, UWAC, Hamilton, ON
 Jean Mekitiak, UMC-Calgary Collection, Calgary, AB
 Vera Melnyk, USRL, Toronto, ON
 Bill Miske, USRA, Surrey, BC
 Kathy Miske, UWAC, Surrey, BC
 Olyne Patryluk, UWAC, Regina, SK
 Elizabeth Roshko, UWAC, Smoky Lake, AB
 J. William Strus, USRA, Oakville, ON
 Mykola Woron, USRA, Calgary, AB

UCC-SPC (Saskatchewan Provincial Council) presents Nation Builder Awards. This years USRL member recipients were: Stephen Senyk and Ostap Skrypnyk

Also, in Saskatchewan, Community Recognitions Award and URSL member recipients were:
 †Helen Danylchuk, Russel Pankiw and Marnie Howlett

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**WORLD FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN
 WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS - WFUWO
 СВІТОВА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ
 ЖІНОЧИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ – СФУЖО**

Summit 2015 - Річні Народи
 Report by Lesia Perritt, delegate



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ
UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS
CONGRES DES UKRAINIEN-CANADIENS

125TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2016, the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada will be commemorated. An official logo designed by Ukrainian Canadian artist Oleh Lesiuk was unveiled in September. To see it and read about its meaning, go to <ucc.ca> and scroll down to the logo news release. Periodically check the Ukrainian Canadian Congress website for anniversary commemorations around the country.

UCC AWARDS, 2015

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress recognizes individuals in the greater Ukrainian community for their volunteerism. Congratulations to the recipients listed below.

UCC-APC (Alberta Provincial Council)

In Alberta, the Hetman Award is presented. From USRL, the following were honoured: Ivanna Kruhlak and Emil Yereniuk.

UCC-MPC (Manitoba Provincial Council)

In Manitoba, the Bulava Award is presented. Members of USRL component organization recipients were Olena Garrity, Maurice Lakusta and Dr. Roman Yereniuk.

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations was formed in 1948 to unite Ukrainian women worldwide and provide a platform for sharing goals on cultural, religious, educational, civic, humanitarian and immigration issues. WFUWO provides a network for Ukrainian communities worldwide and maintains a non-governmental organization (NGO) status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and UNICEF. The head office of WFUWO is currently in Toronto, with Orysia Sushko, our former Promin editor, serving as President.

At the WFUWO summit held September 3-5, 2015 in Stockholm, Sweden, I attended as an official delegate representing the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada. Twenty delegates and over thirty guests were in attendance from 12 of the 18 WFUWO member countries. The summit or annual meeting was conducted entirely in Ukrainian. President Orysia Sushko provided her annual report followed by reports from delegates of various countries presenting a summary of the year's work of their organizations.

Each delegate summarized her organization's efforts to maintain Ukrainian culture in her country and the assistance provided to Ukraine for medical supplies, reconstructive surgery for injured soldiers, support of orphaned children, donations of clothing,

scholarships, etc. All organizations had developed a network to ensure that funds and aid went to those in Ukraine who actually needed it. Dr. Martha Kichorowska Kebalo, Main Representative in consultative status to UN/ECOSOC also delivered a report.

Delegates and guests engaged in round table discussions on topics such as humanitarian aid, countering anti-Ukrainian propaganda and improving communication between member countries. Formal resolutions are made at the WFUWO Conference held every five years.

Prior to the summit's official opening, delegates met at the Ukrainian Embassy for an official meeting with the Honorable Ihor Sagach, Ambassador from Ukraine to Sweden. He spoke passionately on Ukrainian history, the past and present relationship between Sweden and Ukraine, and the current challenge to maintain democracy and freedom from aggression in Ukraine. Several times he emphasized, "Ми переможемо!"; "We will be victorious!" Ambassador Sagach presented delegates with copies of archival documents signed by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky and also Hetman Pylyp Orlyk.

The summit left me with the many impressions, some of which were:

1. Ukrainian women around the globe demonstrate strong attributes in having their voices heard and in upholding Ukrainian cultural, religious, educational and humanitarian goals.
2. Our Ukrainian ancestry is what defines us; we share a common bond regardless of our nationality, be it American, Australian, Argentinian, British, or Canadian, etc.
3. Women are willing to take risks and make personal sacrifices in order that truth be known. Example: *Holodomor* awareness; public protests; reports to media
4. Letter writing in protest of various situations is important. Example: condemning the unlawful detention of Nadiya Shevchenko
5. Letter writing in support of causes is effective. Example: appealing to government officials for moral and financial support of Ukraine

6. The political events in the world have an effect on ALL of us. We must keep well-informed of multiple issues and continue to support fellow Ukrainians in various ways, regardless of where they live. To quote a summit speaker: "Як не ми, а хто?" "If not we, then who?"

Summit reports will appear in a future WFUWO publication. For additional information about WFUWO, please refer to the website <wfuwo.org>.

Звіти річних нарад будуть надруковані в майбутній публікації *Українка в Світі*, пресовий орган СФУЖО. Про різні події СФУЖО, відвідайте двомовну веб-сторінку <wfuwo.org>.

References:

Kebalo, Martha Kichorowska, Guest ed., *Ukrainian Woman in the World, Special Issue on WFUWO at the United Nations*. Toronto: World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, 2014

Сушко, Оріся, ред., *Українка в Світі, Ukrainian Woman in the World, 3-4*. Toronto: Світова Федерація Українських Жіночих Організацій, 2014

