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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Rada overrides veto of election laws restricting CEC and appeals process

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament voted on August 21 to override President Viktor Yushchenko's veto on the election rules bill, which critics allege significantly restricts voter rights and tips the scales in favor of the dominating political forces – the Party of Regions of Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

It was their deputies who provided 321 of the 325 votes in favor, passing into law their preferred rules that are to take effect September 1, said Mykhailo Okhondovskiy, a Central Election Commission (CEC) member. The Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and Communist Party of Ukraine offered no support.

Among its key provisions, the law will restrict all appeals to a single court, the Higher Administrative Court in Kyiv, which will have two days to review them and reach a verdict, instead of the previous five days.

"It will be forbidden to submit complaints to the CEC during voting and establishing election results," Presidential Secretariat Deputy Chair Maryna Stavniichuk told the Verkhovna Rada minutes before the vote.

"Meaning the CEC, the organ which guarantees the realization of voting rights, doesn't have rights, and is supposed to leave citizens' appeals and complaints without review. What is this? Tell us national deputies, have you forgotten about 2004?"

[Ed. Note – It was the CEC which ruled on creating a third round of voting that enabled the election of President Yushchenko in 2004.]

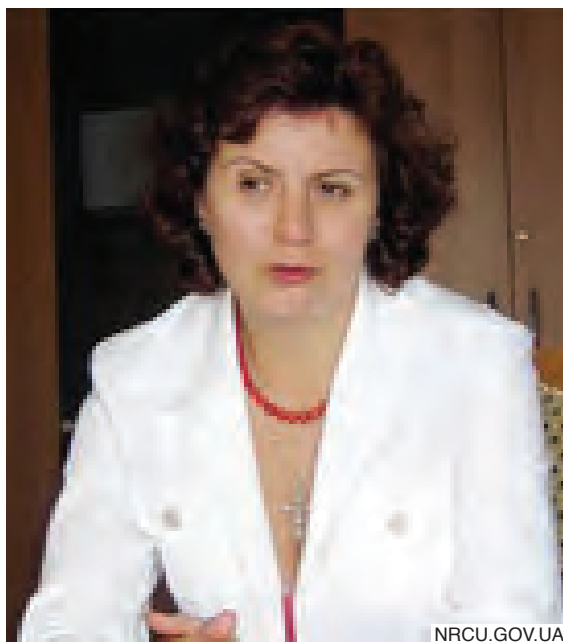
Immediately after the vote, the Presidential Secretariat reaffirmed previous statements that it would submit the law for the Constitutional Court's review once it takes effect, with the expectation that the Court will reject those provisions under question.

President Yushchenko won't sign the law, but Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn will likely provide the needed signature, said Ihor Popov, a Presidential Secretariat deputy chair.

Should the Constitutional Court rule in the Secretariat's favor, the election law will have to be rewritten and reapproved during the campaign, "and that won't be a positive," he said.

The official election campaign season begins September 19 according to the prior law (120 days before election day), but on October 19 according to the law passed August 21 (90 days prior).

However, nothing will prevent the presidential election from taking place on



Presidential Secretariat Deputy Chair Maryna Stavniichuk

January 17, Mr. Okhondovskiy said, and the second round run-off is set for February 2.

In her address before the Verkhovna Rada, Ms. Stavniichuk criticized parts of the law that she said not only violated the Constitution of Ukraine but also European standards.

Millions of overseas Ukrainians not included in consulate and embassy voter registries on election day are barred from voting, she said.

"Introducing through law additional limits on citizens' constitutional right to vote during the presidential elections, tied to being included on consulates' citizen registries, is nothing other than a violation of Ukraine's Constitution," Ms. Stavniichuk said. "Other than that, these provisions contradict generally accepted international standards of voter rights."

The law also requires that local and district election commissions consist exclusively of residents of their respective regions, "which doesn't ensure balanced representation for presidential candidates in respective election commissions," she said, underlining the president's opposition to residency restrictions on election commissions.

The law also creates conditions for falsification, Ms. Stavniichuk said, such as expanding the minimum local election district from 2,500 voters to 3,000, giving authorities the pretext to add new voters onto local registries as late as election day itself.

Meanwhile, election authorities gain an extra ten days to create the district election commissions, which can cast doubt upon the legitimacy of the election's organization, she said.

The law allows for creating special elec-

(Continued on page 22)

Kyiv seeks to mobilize Ukrainians abroad to counter Russian pressure

by Paul Goble

Windows on Eurasia

August 27

VIENNA – In response to Moscow's continuing efforts to exploit ethnic Russians living in Ukraine in order to put pressure on the Ukrainian government, Kyiv is seeking to mobilize ethnic Ukrainians in the Russian Federation and elsewhere to defend Ukraine from Russian attacks and to promote Ukrainian interests as well.

On Tuesday, August 25, Vira Ulianchenko, the chief of the Presidential Secretariat, hosted a meeting with representatives of Ukrainians living outside of Ukraine and senior Ukrainian official, including acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandohiy and two deputy chiefs of the Presidential Secretariat, Andrei Honcharuk and Valentina Rudenko.

Ms. Ulianchenko told the group that the Ukrainian government is committed to "activating" relations between Kyiv and Ukrainians living in other countries in order to support both their efforts to "preserve and disseminate Ukrainian culture" where they live and to "support democracy in Ukraine" (www.ia-centr.ru/expert/5659/).

The Secretariat chief said that "state support for Ukrainians abroad as a powerful political and spiritual force is one of the priorities of President Viktor Yushchenko," as is shown, she continued, by his frequent calls for the parliament to provide full funding for programs directed "at the support of Ukrainians abroad."

In his name, Ms. Ulianchenko expressed the gratitude of the Ukrainian nation for "the active support by Ukrainians abroad of the president's initiative for honoring the victims of the Terror Famine of 1932-1933" and for their efforts to secure "international recognition of the Terror Famine as a genocide of the Ukrainian people."

But Ms. Ulianchenko devoted most of her time to what she said are the

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"fundamental threats of a political, economic and international character" now facing Ukraine during the run-up to the presidential elections. These threats, she continued, include ones directed against "the existence of Ukraine itself and the existence of democracy in Ukraine."

Discussing Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's recent letter to President Yushchenko, Ms. Ulianchenko said that the Russian president's letter had the unintended consequence of "consolidating Ukrainians" as was shown, she continued, by "the activity and clarity of patriotic public actions during the celebrations of State Flag Day and Ukrainian Independence Day."

Mr. Medvedev's letter, she noted, was part of a continuing series of Russian statements and actions which highlighted Russia's "imperial ambitions" and Moscow's lack of respect for Ukraine and Ukrainians. Russian leaders, including Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, have suggested that "Ukraine is supposedly a non-existent state."

And she concluded her remarks by saying that the efforts of other government to influence "organization of Ukrainians abroad" against Ukraine were "impermissible," an indication that such efforts may be taking place and that Kyiv is now worried about their consequences.

Tuesday's meeting in Kyiv is intriguing for three reasons. First, it suggests that Ukrainian officials are now prepared to push even harder than they have in the past to get governments around the world to declare that the Stalin-era famine in Ukraine was a genocide, an effort that parallels longstanding efforts by Armenians regarding 1915.

Second, the meeting shows that Kyiv is now prepared to give Moscow a taste of its own medicine. Russia has regularly sought to use the dwindling number of ethnic Russians in Ukraine to put pressure on Kyiv. Now, Kyiv appears to be hoping that it will be able to use the more than six million ethnic Ukrainians in Russia, possibly leading Moscow to back off from its tactic.

And third, such activism by the Ukrainian government may lead more Russians to conclude, as one in three now does, that there is no need "to lobby pro-Russian forces in Ukraine since there are no real pro-Russian forces there" now.

Such Russians believe, according to a survey by the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion (VTsIOM), an agency known for its close ties to the Kremlin, that Moscow "must work with the government Ukrainians have chosen themselves" rather than trying to push forward "pro-Russian forces" (wciom.ru/novosti/press-vypuski/press-vypusk/single/12331.html)

ANALYSIS

Russian manipulation of history: "the art of interpretation"

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

To mark the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact by the USSR and Nazi Germany on August 23, 1939, the Foreign Intelligence Service (known its Russian acronym as SVR) published a book of declassified intelligence reports and documents to prove that "the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact together with its secret protocol was a righteous and moral agreement that helped defeat the Nazis."

On August 19 the RIA Novosti news agency held a press conference in Moscow, which this writer witnessed, to launch the book that was put together by SVR Maj.-Gen. (retired) Lev Sotnikov. In Soviet times, the SVR was known as the First Main Directorate of the KGB (RIA Novosti, August 19).

The SVR book is specifically aimed at the three Baltic republics: Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The chief of the SVR press service, Sergei Ivanov, told the press that the book, "The Baltic in Geopolitics 1935-1945" "must be in each Russian school" for the teachers to teach "true history." The publisher of the book, Oleg Vavilov, announced: "History is the art of interpretation." According to Mr. Ivanov, the collection of declassified intelligence reports that were mostly addressed to the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, was first put together by Mr. Sotnikov as confidential material in order to teach SVR students in 2006. It was later put on the SVR website and published as a book to mark the Molotov-Ribbentrop anniversary (www.svr.gov.ru/material/pribaltica.htm).

Mr. Sotnikov, who according to the book, served as a high-ranking KGB spy before retiring, told the press "history is being massively falsified, especially in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia." In May President Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree to create a "historic truth" commission to fight the "the falsifiers of history," who are attacking Russia and its heritage (Eurasia Daily Monitor, May 21).

According to Mr. Sotnikov, before signing the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in August 1939, the USSR was trying to create a system of collective security in Europe with Britain, France, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and other nations to stop Nazi Germany. Moscow's main condition in 1939 was that its armed forces must be allowed to massively deploy in the Baltic territories and in Poland. But the Poles and the Baltic nations refused, while Paris and London hesitated to press them to accept Soviet Russian troops on their territory. If the Soviet demand had been met, "our troops would have entered the Baltic territories much earlier," according to Mr. Sotnikov, "but the Poles, the West and the Baltic countries wanted to collaborate with Nazi Germany instead."

After the West refused to cooperate, the Kremlin accepted a German offer that gave the USSR what it wanted: half of Poland, the Baltic countries, Finland and the part of Romania that is now Moldova – as a sphere of influence to occupy. After the Nazis attacked Russia in June 1941, Western democracies soon formed an "effective collective security system with Russia," which according to Mr. Sotnikov is one of the main positive results of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. The pact also allowed the USSR to rearm and to "move the border with Germany to the West" (www.svr.gov.ru/material/pribaltica.htm).

According to Mr. Sotnikov, "it is a lie; the Baltic states were never occupied by

"History is the art of interpretation."

– Oleg Vavilov,
Russian publisher.

Russia." The KGB intelligence reports that were sent to the Kremlin in 1940 say the Baltic nations volunteered to join the Soviet Union. According to the KGB, Communist rule was established through democratic elections, though elections were undemocratic, since many Russian speakers did not vote.

The denunciation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the secret protocol that divided Europe by the People's Congress in Moscow in 1989 under President Mikhail Gorbachev was a grave mistake, according to Mr. Sotnikov, who is apparently fully supported by the SVR (www.svr.gov.ru/material/pribaltica.htm).

Many of the intelligence reports in the book were declassified to prove that Britain and the U.S., after they joined with the USSR to fight the Nazis, in fact accepted the results of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact: the Soviet incorporation of the Baltic countries, half of Poland, Moldova and part of Finland. Indeed, at Yalta in 1945 the leaders of Britain and the USSR not only de facto accepted the Russian sphere of influence, as defined by Molotov-Ribbentrop, but also added to it a large part of Central Europe – which later became the Warsaw Pact.

Today official Russian support of the Molotov-Ribbentrop accord that divided Europe into spheres of influence is not just a difference over historical interpretation. Last year, during a visit to Germany, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced that Moscow wants to call an all-European conference to create a new collective security system (RIA Novosti, June 5, 2008). After the invasion of Georgia in August 2008, Mr. Medvedev announced that Russia has a "sphere of privileged interests." Mr. Medvedev insisted that the war with Georgia had confirmed the need to form a new collective security system in Europe, since the existing ones (NATO, OSCE) did not manage to prevent the conflict (www.kremlin.ru, August 30, 2008).

Moscow, as in the past, is seeking an agreement with the West that would provide security and stability in Europe, if only Russia were granted a sphere of influence and domination. The exact boundaries are negotiable, if the West and first of all Washington, agree to the Russian interpretation of collective security. Of course, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact as well as the Yalta follow-up must now be rehabilitated.

During Communist rule, official propaganda fully supported the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact as an agreement that was forced on Russia by the double-dealing West, while the Yalta system was secured by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Of course, in Soviet times the Kremlin adamantly denied the existence of a secret Molotov-Ribbentrop protocol. Today, the protocol is also praised, since the Kremlin clearly wishes to re-enact it.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Tymoshenko: most influential person

KYIV – For the second consecutive year, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has been named Ukraine's most influential person by Korrespondent magazine, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on August 21. Following Ms. Tymoshenko on the list of influential people is multi-billionaire and National Deputy Rinat Akhmetov; who is followed by the pro-Moscow leader of the Party of Regions, Viktor Yanukovich. Billionaire business mogul Victor Pinchuk, the son-in-law of former President Leonid Kravchuk, was ranked fourth. Viktor Yushchenko, the Ukrainian president, was in fifth place. The last person on the 100-person list is Viktor Lozinskyi, a national deputy who has been stripped of his immunity and is being sought by the police for his involvement in a murder case. Oleksander Pashkaver, one of the magazine's columnists, explained the odd choice by saying Mr. Lozinskyi is on the list because he personifies the ills of Ukrainian politics: corruption in government and a total lack of transparency in the judiciary. Mr. Pashkaver added that Mr. Lozinskyi "represents the moral level of the people who occupy Ukraine's political and economic beau monde." (RFE/RL)

No need for new Russian centers

KYIV – Culture and Tourism Minister Vasyl Vovkun said on August 18 that he sees no need to open new Russian cultural centers in Ukraine as the Russian Federal Agency for CIS Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation said it plans to do. While on the air on Ukraine's Channel 5 TV the minister explained that at least one school with Russian as the language of instruction functions in every regional or district center of Ukraine, and residents of Ukraine have access to Russian TV channels, newspapers and books. "It seems that again some kind of pressure is under way," Mr. Vovkun said. At the same time, the minister noted that Ukraine is not against the opening of such centers, but on the condition that they will be engaged in the cultural activities, not in "activity

that can actually cause damage to the interests of the state." In July the Russian Federal Agency for CIS Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation announced its intention to open centers of Russian scholarship and culture in a number of large Ukrainian cities, including Sevastopol. Such centers will be opened in other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries also. Presently, there is a Russian cultural center in Kyiv. (Ukrinform)

Russians' bad feelings about Ukraine

KYIV – The Embassy of Ukraine in Moscow has said that the results of the latest Russian poll conducted by the Levada Center on the attitudes of Russian citizens to foreign states are "extremely symptomatic." The study indicated that 47 percent of respondents said they had bad feelings about Ukraine, the Embassy's spokesman, Oleh Voloshyn, told Ukrinform on August 12. The Embassy said that 75-90 percent of Ukrainian citizens had good feelings about Russia. According to the poll conducted by the Levada Center in July, Russian citizens have better attitudes toward the European Union and the United States, than toward Ukraine and Georgia. Nearly half of Russians (47 percent) said they had bad feelings about Ukraine and 63 percent about Georgia. At the same time, 61 percent of respondents described their attitudes toward the EU as positive and 47 percent had good feelings about the United States, while 22 percent and 40 percent had bad feelings about the EU and the U.S., respectively. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko on relations with Russia

KYIV – Ukraine is interested in developing a dynamic and effective partnership with the Russian Federation, emphasized President Viktor Yushchenko on August 19 at a press conference in the Poltava region. "Certainly, it is important to have active Ukrainian-Russian relations. This corresponds with national interests," he

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Yushchenko announces candidacy for president on nationalist platformby **Taras Kuzio***Eurasia Daily Monitor*

President Viktor Yushchenko on July 18 announced his bid for a second term, defying pundits who believed his low popularity of 2-3 percent would deter him (www.president.gov.ua, July 18). Mr. Yushchenko used the highest peak in Ukraine – Hoverla in the Carpathians – to declare his bid for re-election, following a tradition set on Hoverla in 2002 (when he launched the Our Ukraine political party) and 2004 (when he announced his presidential candidacy).

Mr. Yushchenko's election speech included little concerning everyday realities facing Ukrainians such as the global financial crisis, but it was instead full of references to Ukrainian national identity, the re-writing of history, historical memory, language and the nation. The speech – as reflected in actual presidential policies in Crimea – points to Mr. Yushchenko following Leonid Kravchuk in 1994 in campaigning for re-election on a nationalistic platform.

President Yushchenko had targeted Russia's Black Sea Fleet during the August 2008 Russian-Georgian war, passing two decrees that sought to restrict its ability to move in and out of Sevastopol without Ukrainian authorization. The Black Sea Fleet, which sent vessels and marines to the August 2008 war, refused to abide by these decrees, while the Ukrainian president did not seek to enforce them in the face of Russian objections.

Typically, the decrees therefore remained on paper, reinforcing the Yulia Tymoshenko government's view that it was pointless issuing them, since it would not have risked a direct confrontation over the Black Sea Fleet. Most Ukrainian politicians have always sought to grudgingly accept its presence, through a temporary 20-year provision in the Ukrainian Constitution that bans foreign bases, and hope that Russia will abide by the treaty and withdraw in 2017.

This approach to Sevastopol and the fleet

only served to embolden Russia to act with impunity and ignore the 1997 basing agreement and Ukrainian legislation, whether through illegally occupying buildings, such as lighthouses, or transporting missiles through Crimean towns without Ukrainian authorization.

In addition, Russia – particularly Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov – invested large financial sums into Sevastopol while Kyiv ignored the challenge of raising Ukraine's profile in the port by financing socio-economic and educational institutions (Ukrayinsky Tyzhden, June 12). Sevastopol has a large shopping mall named "Moscow" and branches of the Moscow State University provided by the mayor of Moscow.

Mr. Yushchenko has ordered law enforcement agencies to investigate Russian activities in Sevastopol (www.pravda.com.ua, July 5). The president believes that they are "directed not only against the state, but against us all, against our families, and our children. These are those projects that bring instability and squabbles" (www.pravda.com.ua, July 5).

Mr. Yushchenko has also lobbied for the idea of removing Sevastopol's Soviet-era special status which combined with Kyiv, gives it an all-republican status. His aim is to integrate Sevastopol with Crimea. In Mr. Yushchenko's criticism of Russian projects, he in effect called for the Ukrainianization of Sevastopol by tying it closer to Ukraine geographically and through promoting Ukrainian national identity and military traditions. Mr. Luzhkov denied Mr. Yushchenko's charges that its Sevastopol education and economic projects were "unfriendly" and a "provocation against Ukraine," counter-claiming that the Ukrainian authorities have invested little themselves (www.pravda.com.ua, July 6).

Moreover, Mr. Yushchenko has also tightened the screws on Sevastopol in other ways. On July 8 a Russian military convoy of three

trucks transporting SS-N-2 short-range and SS-N-9 medium-range missiles without permits through Sevastopol was intercepted by Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry special forces. The missiles were en route to a technical repair base 30 kilometers outside the port that is used by the fleet.

SS-N-9 missiles, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, were used as conventional weapons during the fleet's intervention in the 2008 Russian-Georgian war. The Russian foreign ministry protested at the Ukrainian intervention claiming that transporting missiles was permitted by the 1997 agreement. "Our sailors were not conducting any new type of action," the statement said (www.pravda.com.ua, July 21).

On July 21 another Russian convoy was halted by MVS traffic police that was transporting Malakhit missiles without a permit or the required fire engine escort, while three more trucks carrying missiles were stopped on July 23.

Earlier this year Ukraine protested over plans to add a submarine to the Black Sea Fleet, claiming it cannot be enlarged without Ukraine's consent. A separate addendum would have to be agreed to the 1997 basing agreement in order to permit the fleet's expansion.

Russia continues to distribute passports to Crimeans, thereby infringing on Ukrainian legislation, which does not permit dual citizenship. The practice, used extensively in South Ossetia, permitted Russia to claim that it was intervening to protect "Russian citizens" from "Georgian aggression" and could thereby provide a similar pretext for a future Russian intervention in Sevastopol, in the event of a Ukrainian crackdown on separatists.

Another widely used infringement is the violation of Ukrainian immigration laws by the fleet's personnel. Last month the fleet protested against Ukraine's new policy of checking the documentation of Russian naval personnel, claiming it was

an "unfriendly move directed against Russian-Ukrainian relations" (www.pravda.com.ua, June 8). The Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry, which oversees the issuing of passports and immigration controls, estimated that 10 percent of illegal immigrants in Sevastopol were Russian sailors.

The Black Sea Fleet has positively responded to one Ukrainian demand and requested permission (for the first time in 18 years) to hold its annual parade. A spokesman from the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow said that, "this step will strengthen the practice of providing full respect by the Russian side towards Ukrainian sovereignty, its legislation and the bilateral agreement that regulates the basing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Ukrainian territory" (www.pravda.com.ua, July 14).

Equally, Russia is likely to negatively respond to the majority of Ukrainian demands. Although Russia is conducting an ideological campaign against Ukraine (EDM, June 12) and is openly provocative, Mr. Yushchenko's nationalist election platform is likely to maintain tense relations with Russia, while deepening Western European suspicions of him as a Russophobe. Consequently, this might reduce Ukraine's prospects to pursue closer European integration.

President Yushchenko's nationalistic campaign for a second term repeats that of Mr. Kravchuk's desperate attempt for re-election in the 1994 pre-term presidential elections. However, Mr. Yushchenko's nationalist platform, reminiscent of Mr. Kravchuk's, is likely to fail while also undermining the young pretender Arseniy Yatsenyuk's campaign – by splitting the Our Ukraine vote between two candidates.

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Gongadze case suspect detained: a boost for Yushchenko?by **Pavel Korduban***Eurasia Daily Monitor*

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has arrested a former police general, Oleksi Pukach, a key suspect in the murder of investigative journalist Heorhii Gongadze in 2000. It is believed that Mr. Pukach was the main link between the policemen who killed Gongadze – they received long prison sentences in 2008 – and the people who commissioned his murder.

Along with President Viktor Yushchenko's mysterious poisoning in 2004, the murder of Gongadze has been one of the main unsolved mysteries in the pre-Orange Revolution Ukraine which Mr. Yushchenko pledged to solve. If Mr. Pukach proves cooperative, the murder case might be solved and certain top officials could be implicated. This might also improve President Yushchenko's chances of re-election in January 2010, which are meager at the moment as his popularity does not exceed 3-4 percent.

Mykola Melnychenko, the ex-security officer of former President Leonid Kuchma who claims to have secretly recorded conversations in Mr. Kuchma's office shortly after Gongadze's murder, alleged that Mr. Kuchma (along with his chief aide Volodymyr Lytvyn and the Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko) ordered the police to kill Gongadze. The three consistently denied any involvement, and the authenticity of Mr. Melnychenko's record-

ings is disputed. The investigation into Gongadze's murder before Mr. Kuchma left office in early 2005 was mishandled. This prompted street protests against President Kuchma in the early 2000's, which eventually led to the Orange Revolution – the mass protests against election falsifications that brought Mr. Yushchenko to power.

SBU operatives found Mr. Pukach on July 21 in a village in the Zhytomyr Region, near Kyiv, where he lived a quiet country life, pretending to be a former sea captain. Mr. Pukach was first arrested in 2003, though a court ordered his release in return for a guarantee that he would not flee – which he promptly ignored.

Sviatoslav Piskun, who was fired from the post of procurator general soon afterwards, now claims that he was dismissed for finding proof of Mr. Pukach's guilt (Interfax-Ukraine, July 22).

Andrii Kozhemiakin, the former head of the SBU's department responsible for the investigation who now leads Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's caucus in Parliament, claimed that the SBU was prevented from catching Mr. Pukach in Israel in 2005 by a deliberate leak of information (Ukrayinska Pravda, July 22). However, both SBU Deputy Chief Vasyl Hrytsak, who announced the capture of Mr. Pukach on July 22, and Mr. Pukach's lawyer, Serhii Osyka, claimed that he had not left Ukraine since Gongadze's murder (Channel 5, July 23).

Messrs. Hrytsak and Osyka disagreed on a more fundamental issue. Mr. Hrytsak said

that Mr. Pukach has already named the individuals who commissioned the murder and admitted to having assisted in the murder himself (Ukrayinska Pravda, July 22). Mr. Osyka strenuously denied this allegation (Channel 5, July 23). Nonetheless, the Kommersant-Ukraine daily on July 24 quoted an SBU source as insisting that Mr. Pukach did reveal who commissioned the murder, naming three individuals, including one senior official.

Only one person identified by Mr. Melnychenko still holds a key position – the Chairman of the Parliament, Volodymyr Lytvyn. One source in Washington told Ukrayinska Pravda on July 28 that Mr. Lytvyn cancelled his planned visit to the U.S. immediately after Mr. Pukach's arrest. Ukrainian commentator Volodymyr Fesenko suggested that Mr. Pukach's detention might be used by political rivals both against Mr. Lytvyn and the fragile coalition of Ms. Tymoshenko, in which Mr. Lytvyn's party is a junior partner (UNIAN, July 26). Mr. Lytvyn also apparently wanted to run for president and now his hopes may be dashed.

Many local observers were suspicious about the fact that Mr. Pukach was arrested when the presidential race was about to start. It is generally believed that President Yushchenko may benefit from the situation and improve his rating and some commentators even suspect Mr. Yushchenko of foul play. "What if the investigation will be guided in a certain direction?" the Den daily wondered on July 23, suggesting that Mr.

Yushchenko could gain from this as "finding those who commissioned Gongadze's murder was one of Mr. Yushchenko's promises during the 2004 election campaign."

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the archrival of Mr. Yushchenko, has also proven suspicious. "It is surprising that Mr. Pukach who has lived in Ukraine all this time and, according to certain sources, was watched by the police... has been detained before the election," she told a press conference (Interfax-Ukraine, July 23).

President Yushchenko requested that the SBU should guarantee the security of Mr. Pukach, since he is a very important witness. Mr. Yushchenko said that Mr. Pukach's first questioning was promising and, consequently, "society will hear some important news." He made it clear that he suspects certain top officials of involvement in the Gongadze murder and that he attaches to this investigation the symbolic meaning of "a fight between good and evil" (Silski Visti, July 22).

Gongadze's widow, Myroslava, has been less enthusiastic, forecasting that Mr. Pukach would lay all the blame on former Internal Affairs Minister Kravchenko who committed suicide in 2005, and two police generals, who died under mysterious circumstances several years ago (www.liga.net, July 22).

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UOL elects new executive boards, awards scholarships at 62nd annual convention

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio – For the 62nd time in the history of the Ukrainian Orthodox League (UOL) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., delegates from various chapters of parish families from across the country gathered for the annual UOL convention. The hosts for this year's convention were the Senior and Junior UOL chapters and, in fact, all the parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish of Youngstown, Ohio.

Nearly 150 delegates, including clergy and representatives of chapters of the Church's oldest central organization participated in this year's convention, held on July 22-26. Although this is significantly fewer than the average attendance (the difficult economy is a major reason), the participants included faithful from local parishes who attended the evening social events. Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel actively participated in the daily sessions of the convention. Unfortunately, however, Archbishop-Metropolitan Constantine was not able to join the delegates for this year's gathering due to illness.

The five-day convention began on a spiritual note with great vespers celebrated before the first business session was called to order at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22. Following the invocation, the presentation of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the U.S. national anthem, opening remarks and greetings were expressed by Senior UOL National Executive Board President Oleh Bilynsky and Junior UOL President Taylor Gladys. The Very Rev. John Harvey, convention spiritual advisor, Josh Auden and Robert Mark, convention committee co-chairmen, welcomed all the guests to Youngstown and offered the full services and assistance of the hosting chapters.

Archbishop Antony conveyed a greeting from Metropolitan Constantine who remained in the hospital in Pittsburgh, missed only his second convention in the 42 years of his priesthood and episcopacy. Archbishop Antony informed the guests about the progress of the metropolitan's recovery following surgery and later complications, and of his expressed desire throughout his hospitalization to get "out of here in time to get to Youngstown." He assured the members of the UOL of the metropolitan's love for them all.

Over the course of the convention, several working committees developed goals and objectives for the Senior and Junior UOL executive boards to implement with and through the organization's local chapters. These committees are: Vocations



Participants of the 62nd annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention.

and Clergy Support, Nominating, Resolutions, Ways and Means, Christian Care Giving and Missions, Youth, Membership and Chapter Development, and Education. Business sessions recessed at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, which allowed for plenty of time for members to meet and socialize during a hospitality evening sponsored by the hosting UOL chapter.

Thursday morning, July 23, began with divine liturgy celebrated by Bishop Daniel, assisted by the spiritual advisors to the Junior and Senior UOL executive boards, the Very Rev. Myron Oryhon and the Rev. Anthony Perkins, respectively.

The afternoon session began with a message by Bishop Daniel, who reflected on the theme of this year's convention: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." He challenged the delegates and the membership of the organization to become a vital instrument of evangelization for the Church. Bishop Daniel spoke about vision – opening one's eyes to see and understand God's will for his children in the Church, local parish, town and community.

Calling on the participants to recall the virtues of Christian life, Bishop Daniel said, "The precepts of our faith are a challenge and a threat to many of the false values of our society. That is why our society is so concerned with keeping religion out of the public square. But we are called to be men and women of faith. During this convention, promise yourself that you will never turn your back on Christ. Promise yourself that you will

never ignore or contradict the teachings of His Church – by either your words or your actions."

Working committees then continued their efforts begun the previous evening. Following the committee meetings, their reports were duplicated for consideration by the entire convention body. Approved items become mandatory for the local chapters to act upon and support.

These first two days of the UOL convention concluded with a Hawaiian Luau at the Grand Pavilion of the Avalon Inn in Youngstown. Over 200 people enjoyed fine dining and the music of a band from the Bahamas, Rudy and the Professionals, who presented a program of island music mixed with popular songs of the past and present.

Friday began with an akathist service to the Mother of God of Pochaiv, served by the Rev. Perkins, reflecting on the history and spirituality of the miraculous icon. During the remainder of the day delegates heard, discussed and approved committee reports and recommendations that are to be implemented throughout the coming year in all local chapters. The convention body was thrilled at the \$3,000 UOL donation, presented to the president of St. Andrew's Society the Rev. Protodeacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay, to benefit their Ukrainian Soup Kitchen Project, which was collected during the UOL "Souper Bowl" fund raiser.

In his archpastoral address, Archbishop Antony reflected upon the theme of the convention and expanded upon the greeting to this year's convention body from the Council of Bishops. Trusting in the Lord demands attention to His Holy Wisdom – Christ Himself – rather than depending upon our simple human "wisdom," the hierarch said. Counting on our own wisdom is the philosophy of the secular humanists of society who claim that there is no absolute moral code such as that taught by Christ.

Both Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel spent time with the Junior UOL members at their sessions. While addressing them, the hierarchs spoke about the necessity of taking responsibility for one's choices in life. The bishops spoke about their love of the youthful enthusiasm and idealism they see in Junior UOL members and called upon them to never lose the sense of hope that good things can be accomplished. They urged them to reach out to those they see suffering and those they see being hurt by society or groups of peers because they are different in some way.

The elections of the national executive

boards of the Junior and Senior UOL were the last order of business on each convention's agenda. The results were as follows:

For the Senior UOL, Metropolitan Constantine has re-appointed the Very Rev. Oryhon of Allentown, Pa., as spiritual advisor. Elected executives included: Oleh Bilynsky, Philadelphia – president; Daria Pishko-Komichak, Maplewood, N.J. – first vice-president; Emil Skocypiec, South Bound Brook, N.J. – second vice-president; John Meschisen, Woonsocket, R.I. – recording secretary; Shirley Skocypiec, South Bound Brook, N.J. – corresponding secretary; Martha Misko, Northampton, Pa. – treasurer; Alexis Oryhon, Johnson City, N.Y. – financial secretary; Eric Senedak, Pittsburgh, Pa. – auditor. Other appointments were: Panimatka Linda Oryhon, Johnson City, N.Y. – Vocations and Clergy Support Commission; Natalie Bilynsky, Philadelphia – Bulletin editor; Melanie Nakonachny, Parma, Ohio – Junior UOL advisor; Michael Komichak and Alexandra Hucul, Maplewood, N.J. – co-chairs of the 2010 UOL Convention.

For the Junior UOL, Metropolitan Constantine re-appointed the Rev. Perkins of Woonsocket, R.I. as spiritual advisor. Elected executives included: Taylor Gladys, Pittsburgh – president; Gregory Markiw, Carnegie, Pa. – vice-president; Lesia Mahlay, Parma, Ohio – recording secretary; Ethan Rock, New Castle, Pa. – financial secretary; Katie Zimmerman, Allentown, Pa. – corresponding secretary and Jessica Roach, Harrisonburg, Va. – treasurer.

The business sessions of the 62nd UOL Convention were closed with a benediction offered by Bishop Daniel and the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem.

In the evening, the delegates shared "Ukrainian Night" with delicious Ukrainian cuisine and entertainment by Youngstown's Kyiv Dance Ensemble, under the direction and choreography of Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon, followed by dancing to a live band.

Following the evening entertainment, convention participants were hosted by UOL members from Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Maplewood, N.J., hosts of next year's UOL Convention in 2010. The day ended with midnight office served in the hotel chapel by the Very Rev. Harvey.

Saturday was the final day of formal activities of the convention. The delegates and guests participated in two workshops. Hieromonk Andoni (Colozzo) of

(Continued on page 22)



Members of the 2009-2010 Senior UOL National Executive Board.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

SEEN AT SOYUZIVKA



They came from throughout the United States, Canada and Ukraine. Some 50 or so youths participated in Discovery Camp at Soyuzivka on July 19-25 under the direction of Sandy Lemekha. Spending a week catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances, the campers, age 9-14, hiked the surrounding mountains, made crafts, went rappelling on the Mohonk Ridge, learned of their heritage and spent a week enjoying the fresh but oftentimes rainy weather. Seen here are some of the happy campers and counselors.

- Tom Hawrylko



Fair-goers learn to make pysanky thanks to UNA Branch 360

by Mary Michalow

HAMBURG, N.Y. - Members of Ukrainian National Association Branch 360 were on hand at the Erie County Fair to educate fair-goers about Ukrainian culture.

Branch Secretary Judie Hawryluk, Mary Beth Sukmann and Larry Lisicki held a pysanka demonstration inside the Historical Building on Thursday, August 13, and Monday, August 17.

Fairgoers stopped by to admire, ask questions and watch the three UNA'ers work on pysanky. Ms. Sukmann encouraged interested children to try their hand at making a pysanka, offering guidance and tips as they learned the technique.

Ms. Hawryluk demonstrated the use of a traditional "kistka," while Ms. Sukmann used a calligraphy pen to apply wax on her pysanka. Mr. Lisicki worked on a beaded pysanka, informing onlookers that this style of egg decorating was popular in the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine.



UNA Branch 360 members (from left) Larry Lisicki, Judie Hawryluk and Mary Beth Sukmann hard at work with their pysanka demonstration at the Erie County Fair.



Judie Hawryluk (left) works on a pysanka, while Mary Beth Sukmann (far right) looks on as a fair-goer makes one of his own.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Lenin fades democratically

For millions of Ukrainians, particularly those in the diaspora, it's a painful sight.

A red granite statue of Vladimir Lenin continues to occupy a central square along Kyiv's main thoroughfare, the Khreschatyk, at the intersection with Taras Shevchenko Boulevard.

Surely many harbored the secret fantasy of repeating the fabulous events during the Soviet Union's collapse when crowds, armed with chisels and cranes, enthusiastically dismantled Lenin monuments throughout the former Soviet Union.

However, our respect for the law, both reasonably written and enforced, prevents us from acting out these fantasies.

Mykhailo Kokhanivskyi of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (CUN) is not someone who lets the law dampen his zeal for wrecking Communist monuments.

Last November, he aimed his sledgehammer at Kyiv's monument to Stanislav Kosior, among the key organizers of the Holodomor. Soon followed by the statue of another Bolshevik icon, Grigory Petrovsky.

The central Lenin statue became his latest victim when he led a group of nationalists in the thick darkness of a July morning, scaled a ladder and began relentlessly chiseling away at the face of the Bolshevik hero.

It was a carefully planned political provocation, recorded on digital video and distributed on the Internet for the world to see.

CUN doesn't endorse Mr. Kokhanivskyi's deeds but morally supports them, said Stepan Bratsiun, the chair of CUN's Secretariat.

Mr. Kokhanivskyi's defenders argued he was merely carrying out a presidential decree, ordering the removal of all monuments to Soviet leaders. The Kyiv City Administration issued a similar decree.

But it's the means of achieving an end that is critical in rallying public support. While yanking down monuments and smashing them to bits captured the spirit of the early 1990s, the political climate is entirely different nearly two decades later, in post-Orange Ukraine.

The ineffectiveness of Mr. Kokhanivskyi's deeds was immediately apparent.

Proving the axiom that every action receives an equal and opposite reaction, the wooden cross honoring Ukrainian nationalists who perished at Babyn Yar was duly wrecked.

A portrait of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) Commander Roman Shukhevych, posted at the site planned for his future monument at Lviv Square in Kyiv, had its glass covering shattered.

Nor should it have surprised Mr. Bratsiun that the shattered portrait was promptly delivered to CUN's downtown headquarters. The path paved with Mr. Kokhanivskyi's sledgehammer proved a dead end.

When asked why he didn't pursue the standard means of advocating for political change – through organizing and lobbying interests – Mr. Kokhanivskyi replied that Kyiv authorities ignored dozens of letters reminding them of their duty to execute the decrees already on the books.

In this sense, Mr. Kokhanivskyi has a valid point and his vandalism has brought to public attention what otherwise would have remained unaddressed.

It's nothing new that local governments aren't providing for laws and decrees to be enforced, and among the biggest frustrations that Ukrainians feel is their inability to change their government.

The Orange disappointments only feed the cynicism, and the current electoral system of closed party lists, instead of proportional representation based on geographically defined areas, undermines the individual responsibility that politicians are supposed to bear.

Nevertheless, it's up to the Ukrainian public to organize and lobby to make sure the government is doing its job, rather than taking the law into their own hands.

Organizing a single-minded grassroots initiative with the simple, straightforward goal to remove the capital's Lenin monument would have proven far more effective.

Internet petitions signed by tens of thousands of Kyiv residents, followed by periodic and consistent demonstrations involving a cross section of society, could go a long way to stir Kyiv's otherwise indifferent political leadership.

Persistent phone calls, letters and public marches to maintain pressure could prompt certain politicians and parties to make the issue a key platform.

Democracy isn't easy. It requires the constant vigilance and activity of the public in ensuring that the government is serving its needs and addressing its concerns.

But the rewards of engaging in the laborious, self-sacrificing work of democracy are enormous, for what emerges is a society capable of meeting its needs and peacefully resolving its conflicts, without violence and offense.

In wielding his sledgehammer, Mr. Kokhanivskyi succeeded in drawing attention to a serious problem. How shocking is it that statues to mass murderers such as Lenin and Kosior still stand in Ukraine's capital!

Yet Mr. Kokhanivskyi's sledgehammer has yet to wield any results in removing them.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Beware the Russian bear

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

On August 6, 2009 President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia wrote to President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine expressing indignation over Russia-Ukraine relations, resulting from President Yushchenko's tenure as president. (The text appeared in *The Ukrainian Weekly* on August 16.)

President Yushchenko replied firmly yet diplomatically. The latter was quite remarkable considering that in essence, the president of Russia had entered brazenly as a critic into Ukraine's upcoming presidential election on January 17, 2010. As to the merits of his comments, Mr. Medvedev appears disingenuous. Point by point his accusations can be refuted with facts known to almost anyone who is familiar with Russia and Ukraine (and certainly Mr. Medvedev): the Treaty of 1997 could have been terminated by President Yushchenko, instead Mr. Yushchenko permitted the treaty to renew automatically even after Russia's invasion into Georgia. Ukraine's sale of arms to Georgia is consistent entirely with international norms; a sovereign state naturally determines its own foreign policy since that is one of the elements of sovereignty and forges security alliances such as NATO which it deems most beneficial; Russia's Black Sea fleet stationed in Sevastopol remains on Ukrainian territory until the expiration of its lease; the energy crisis between Russia and Ukraine, which ultimately affected other European countries, was precipitated and repeated every time by Russia's cutoff or reduction of supplies as Russia was in control at all times; Ukraine having condemned Nazism and fascism is coming to grips only now with its communist past and its relationship with Russia, which has dominated Ukraine over the last 350 years; Ukraine is becoming aware that communism equaled or even exceeded Nazism in terms of atrocity and number of victims due to longevity; Ukraine is only beginning to discover its history which had been purged or rewritten by Russia and the USSR; the true heroes of Ukraine have been forgotten or besmirched largely by Russian and Soviet historiography and present-day Ukraine is attempting to rehabilitate them with honors they long deserved; the Russian language has flourished in Ukraine at the expense of the Ukrainian language and Ukraine funds some 4,000 Russian-language schools, while Russia funds no Ukrainian language schools; Ukraine clearly separates Church from state, guarantees freedom of conscience to all and thus has remained fertile ground for all religions, among them Orthodoxy under the auspices of the Moscow Patriarchate, while neither Ukrainian Orthodoxy or Catholicism have not been permitted to develop in Russia.

On May 5, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations held a briefing titled "The Outcome and Lessons of World War II and the Present" at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The event was opened and presided over by Ilya Rogachev, deputy permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the U.N. In the course of his presentation and answering questions, Mr. Rogachev praised the Soviet Union and even Joseph Stalin, and went out of his way to calumniate contemporary Ukraine and the Baltic states. This presentation was not an aberration, but another example of contemporary Russia flexing its historical muscles and attacking its neighbors, once within its sphere of influence.

Indeed, Russia has a lengthy history of imperialism, and thus Mr. Medvedev's communication should not surprise. Furthermore, it should concern not only Ukraine, but all countries once within Russia's sphere of influence and apparently very much within its purview today.

Additionally, given the experiences of modern history and relations between the West and Moscow in the past, Mr. Medvedev's assertions should alarm the West. If the West is intent on defending democracy and protecting the world from the second largest nuclear arsenal controlled by what is becoming a rogue regime, then the West must be vigilant.

Aside from rhetoric, over the last few years Russia has manifested a disregard for democracy within its borders, displayed arrogance in the face of international opprobrium, refused to seriously investigate murders within its borders or cooperate in solving killings abroad involving Russia, directed aggression against its own ethnic minorities and violated the sovereignty of its neighbors.

Taking a cue from Mr. Rogachev, let us consider the lessons of World War II. The war was precipitated by Berlin and Moscow via the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact concluded in Moscow on August 23, 1939, euphemistically referred to as the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. The pact in essence conveniently enabled each side to invade territory which each had long desired. This collaborative effort from the Soviet side, in essence, made the USSR the single most significant Nazi collaborator in history.

The particulars for this conspiracy to perpetrate a crime appeared in the Secret Additional Protocol, not published at the time the pact was announced, which carved up Eastern Europe with specificity and, in retrospect, outlines what transpired subsequently.

A further document that should be considered in assessing contemporary Russia's rhetoric and action in view of historical precedent is the notorious Yalta Agreement concluded in February 1945 by the apparent victors of World War II. Winston S. Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin. The agreement addressed the imminent defeat of Germany, its occupation and control, reparations by Germany, the convening of a United Nations conference, terms of reference for micromanaging by the three parties' foreign secretaries, some rhetoric on unity of action in peace as in war and most importantly the fate of "liberated" Europe – in particular Poland and Yugoslavia and the other countries.

The result was that Stalin assumed control over Eastern Europe with power to set up internal conditions, establish governments and oversee elections, albeit with input from the U.S. and the United Kingdom which subsequently proved minimal and resulted in the Cold War.

Following Yalta, Churchill wrote how poor Neville Chamberlain had been duped by Hitler, but that he (Churchill) could trust Stalin. However, the sad reality was that, even if appeasement was not in the minds of Churchill and Roosevelt, appeasement was the result.

Soviet secret archives as well as the accounts of Soviet agents have determined that Churchill came to Yalta in a disadvantageous position. The Cambridge Five had provided sufficient information on British thinking well in advance. Roosevelt was even more vulnerable since he was in failing health (he died two months later). Furthermore, the U.S.

(Continued on page 17)

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Turning the pages back...

Last year, on September 1, 2008, the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) expelled National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) Secretary Raisa Bohatyriova from the party's decision-making body, the Political Council, and from the party itself.

The decision came after her remarks while on a weeklong working visit to the United States, where she voiced support for Georgian territorial integrity and NATO membership during a U.S.-Ukraine Business Council luncheon held at Washington's Metropolitan

(Continued on page 13)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kokhanivskyi's dilemma

Dear Editor:

The biggest head I'd ever seen monumentalized was Lenin's. Not a bust. Just a neck topped off with that unlovable head. It was in Kyiv, in what was then the Party Higher School. It towered up off a pedestal in the center of the school's lobby. Fixed high on the wall behind that "zla holova" were golden Cyrillics spelling out a Russian quotation from Vladimir Ilyich about the Party's important role in society.

I had come to Kyiv back then to enroll in the Mizhnarodna Shkola Ukrainistyktiv, a six-week course of study. Our venue was that Communist Party institution with the enormous Lenin head. The organizers of the Ukrainian studies program rented facilities there for the six weeks. It was the summer of 1991.

When the putsch broke out in Moscow, I witnessed some of the reverberations in Kyiv, which were of a thrill of sorts to any American steeped in Captive Nations consciousness. Throngs on the "maidan," Soviet flags torn, Ukrainian flags flying. You've seen the pictures. By the time we were wrapping up our summer program, Ukrainian independence had been declared and the party's legal standing was in grave doubt. In the party school lobby, the head still stood, but the quotation on the wall had been ripped out, just holes and a few screws remaining. Wow.

Who knew it'd ever come to this! I shared in an indescribable exhilaration. Later, I wondered what happened to that huge head in Kyiv.

Not 20 years later, I read Danylo Peleschuk's interview (August 9) with Mykola Kokhanivskyi and I find the old 1991 exhilaration doesn't carry me in this story. The image of Mr. Kokhanivskyi's group scurrying around in the dark, then mounting ladders to put the hammer and chisel to Soviet-era monuments strikes me as repulsive to civil society as our urban graffiti vandals.

His rationale is a mix of fractured perceptions, some real, some sheerly romantic: "The smashing of Lenin," he says, "brought together many Ukrainians... It's a very big deal when Ukrainians unite under a common cause." Just how many Ukrainians might that be? He goes on: "In theory, the Ukrainian nation ordered this act." Right.

Those who confront him in opposition to his mission he calls "pro-Russian." It is incredible to me that a real Ukrainian seems not to have met real Ukrainians whose fond memories of their Soviet past are Ukrainian memories. The babunia (elderly woman) on an inadequate pension, the uchytel' (teacher) who now has to get by looking for illegal fares to drive in his substandard vehicle, and more, all of them that might weep for the lost social guarantees of the Soviet era – they're pro-Russian?

Twice Mr. Kokhanivskyi says "whatever the country needs," he's ready to do it. Once he even allows how he'll cut the hands off a national deputy if required. Who identifies the requirement? Who speaks for what Ukraine needs? Ominous, to say the least.

Guys like this give nationalism a bad name.

Matthew-Daniel Stremba
Baltimore

Issues vs. personalities

Dear Editor:

Are we self-imposing an end to free speech in this country? Consider a known fact that it is fine to mock Christianity, but try to question Islam. You can't. Speaker of the House Nancy

Pelosi characterizes American citizens who question President Barack Obama's health care proposal as "un-American." The ending of free speech is also evident in letters published in The Weekly.

Dr. Myron Kuropas is an outstanding historian and a true American patriot. Readers may not always agree with him, but it gets the brain cells thinking. In the last several issues, letters printed by The Weekly were just simply over the line.

If you do not agree with Dr. Kuropas say so, and constructively suggest an alternative. Personal attacks are so disruptive, the writers do not address the issue but they do a lot of hyperventilating.

Roman G. Golash
Palatine, Ill.

Divergent views

Dear Editor:

Reading the letters on the subject of Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, I definitely do not share his views on almost anything. In fact, I know some people who quit subscribing to The Weekly because of his views and verbiage.

I do, however, want to commend Weldon T. Johnson on his excellent letter and to quote to him a Ukrainian saying that: "paper will bear anything" including the rantings of the Republican extreme right.

So, much as it pains me to read this kind of intolerance, there exists a democratic right to voice one's opinions regardless of whether one agrees with them or not.

The Ukrainian Weekly does a fine job of presenting divergent views and for that I am thankful.

Oksana Pisetska Struk
Toronto

No suggestions from Kuropas

Dear Editor:

In his attack on current efforts by Congress to craft the first major reform of America's health care system in almost half a century, Myron Kuropas does not suggest alternative plans ("Bye-bye, Baba?" August 9). Instead, he embraces the status quo (because "Baba" and "Dido" supposedly are satisfied with their health care coverage), neglecting even to consider that more than 47 million Americans are uninsured, medical costs are rising, and obtaining quality insurance coverage is becoming increasingly more difficult. Then he takes the obligatory swipe at Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and all government-administered programs.

Responding to similar attacks, The Washington Post's business columnist Steven Pearlstein recently asked, "Can there be anyone more two-faced than the Republican leaders who in one breath rail against the evils of government-run health care and in another propose a government-subsidized high-risk pool for people with chronic illness, government-subsidized community health centers for the uninsured, and opening up Medicare to people at age 55?"

"Health reform is a test of whether this country can function once again as a civil society – whether we can trust ourselves to embrace the big, important changes that require everyone to give up something in order to make everyone better off," Mr. Pearlstein wrote. "Republican leaders are eager to see us fail that test. We need to show them that no matter how many lies they tell or how many scare tactics they concoct, Americans will come together and get this done."

Walter Iwaskiw
Arlington, Va.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

A conversation with "Olia"

"I should not say this, really, I should not be saying this, but.... The only reason I go back is for my parents. I visit them, and then come back here. Canada is my home now."

I was meeting with the elegant and lovely young woman at the bank on some business matters. She is "Olia" from western Ukraine, and has lived in Winnipeg for about 10 years now. We got on the topic of travel to Ukraine, and how much I enjoy going there every summer, how I feel so at home there. That is when, very wistfully, she begins her story.

When she was growing up and going to school in the Lviv region, she believed everything that her teachers taught her. The whole Soviet thing, the Communist Party, the Komsomol.

"Lenin was everything... You do know who Lenin was, don't you? He was a god to us! I believed my teachers. My parents were patriotic Ukrainians, but they were afraid of having anyone 'out there' know."

Olia's voice changed from her business tone – she is now someone who has been terribly hurt and betrayed. "What they taught us! The Church was an enemy. On Easter morning we were in school sweeping the floors, just so that we would not be going to church with those misled people, like my parents. We were sweeping floors on Velykden morning! This was mandatory. At home, my mother swept away the paska crumbs quickly, and put away all the special breakfast foods as soon as she could, so no one who came in would see. Our traditions were evil. This is how we lived.

"I am so insulted, I am so offended, I am so hurt by how I grew up because of what they turned us into. And we were impressionable, we were kids, we believed our teachers. Did they believe what they were teaching us? Or were they just as afraid? Maybe some of them wanted to be in church on Velykden with my parents, but were afraid of being

fired or arrested.

"That system did give me an education. I was excellent in mathematics, and was awarded tuition-free studies at the institute after secondary school. It was not easy for students to do this, but I did it through my own accomplishments. This was also the time, when I was about 18, when the system fell apart. I did not know what to think when the statues of Lenin were being torn down. We had been taught that he was everything for us, he was the idol, he was our god, and there he was, broken chunks of metal, with everyone around cheering at his fall. I could sense my parents' joy, but I was confused. I am furious that that system made me think that way. I am so hurt, so deeply hurt."

At first I was confused and thought she was talking about the present system, and how people feel betrayed since the Orange Revolution. But no, she was talking about the USSR. I told her that things have changed, that that system is gone, that people no longer look over their shoulders in fear.

"But the people like me who were brought up in that system? It will take us very long to think differently. I know I should. But I cannot forgive them, even though they are gone. I could not go back there to live."

Olia may be unique in her thinking. I hope she is. She cannot get over the betrayal she feels so deeply – betrayal by the teachers, the authorities, all those people whom as an impressionable child she believed. She is incensed. This is beyond logic, but has remained on such a deep emotional level.

It may be presumptuous of me from a distance to say this, but I hope, in time, she heals and gets over it.

If there are more like Olia in Ukraine, it's no wonder that change is taking so long.

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at orysia.tracz@gmail.com.

IN THE PRESS: The letter from Medvedev to Yushchenko

"Dear Viktor, you're dead, love Dmitry; Russia's president writes his Ukrainian counterpart an insulting letter," *The Economist*, August 20:

"...Mr. [Dmitry] Medvedev was not interested in what Mr. [Viktor] Yushchenko had to say [in reply to the Russian counterpart's letter]. He wanted to register Russia's hand in Ukraine's presidential election due on January 17. That election is of almost as much importance to Russia as it is to Ukraine itself. In the previous presidential election, Russia backed Viktor Yanukovich [sic], the Russian-friendly prime minister at the time. He lost badly and so did Vladimir Putin, then Russia's president and now prime minister, who had rushed to congratulate him.

"The Kremlin fears making the same mistake twice. But this time, in insulting Mr. Yushchenko, it is kicking someone who it thinks is certain to lose anyway. It is also laying down rules which it implies the next president must respect if he or

she is to be accepted in Moscow. The ability to influence Ukraine's policy is seen by Russia as a test of its resurgence.

"To show the range of options for reintegrating Ukraine into its 'sphere of privileged interest,' Russia recently dispatched Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, on a tour of Ukraine. ...

"As the war in Georgia showed, the Kremlin has other means of persuasion at its disposal. ... Mr. Medvedev announced new, simplified rules for using Russian military force outside the country to protect Russian citizens and defend units stationed abroad.

"A full-blown military conflict with Ukraine seems unlikely but is no longer unthinkable. ... Andrei Illarionov, once an adviser to Mr. Putin and now a fierce critic, says the key factor is not whether Russia has the military capacity for a confrontation with Ukraine, but that aggression towards the neighbors has become a way of life for the Kremlin. ..."

COMMENTARY

The threat of a Yanukovich victory in the 2010 presidential elections

by Taras Kuzio

The Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American diasporas have yet to appreciate that the upcoming January 17, 2010, presidential elections will be a replay of the 2004 elections.

Five years ago Viktor Yushchenko faced Viktor Yanukovich in the dirtiest and bitterest election in Ukraine's history. In six months Yulia Tymoshenko will face the same Mr. Yanukovich in what will become another battle of wills between two different world views – European and Eurasian.

As with other presidential elections in Ukraine, there will be many other presidential candidates. But this should not distract us from the fact that the main contest – as in 2004 – will be between the two main candidates. This time around they will be Ms. Tymoshenko of the eponymous bloc and Mr. Yanukovich of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU).

Viktor Yushchenko has a mere 3 percent support and cannot expect to win a large number of votes because Ukrainians do not believe he has fulfilled his election promises. Bandits never went to jail – they instead received state medals and high-ranking state positions.

The ratings for Anatoliy Grytsenko, a former defense minister of Ukraine, have remained static at 1-2 percent.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, after being removed as Verkhovna Rada chairman last November, rapidly gained popularity

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because of public disillusionment with quarrelling Ukrainian politicians. More importantly, Mr. Yatsenyuk gained popularity from free air time on Ukraine's most popular television channel, Inter, courtesy of the co-owner of gas intermediary RosUkrEnergo, Dmytro Firtash, and first deputy chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Valeriy Khoroshkovski.

Mr. Yatsenyuk's campaign has increasingly become pro-Russian in its orientation, especially following its takeover in June by Russian political consultants. Prof. Rostyslav Pavlenko, of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, who headed a group of Ukrainian consultants in the Yatsenyuk campaign, was removed that month.

The Yatsenyuk election campaign will be undermined by Mr. Yushchenko, who will take away votes, thereby automatically ensuring Ms. Tymoshenko's entry into the second round.

The voters who backed Our Ukraine in the 2006 and 2007 elections are being courted by four candidates: Messrs. Yushchenko, Grytsenko, Yatsenyuk, and extreme right political activist Oleh Tiahnybok.

It is understandable that the Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American diasporas are disillusioned over politics and politicians in Ukraine. That is also true about Ukrainians in Ukraine, who are also quite disillusioned.

Nevertheless, disillusionment and soul-searching in the Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American diaspora's need to take a second place to the reality of 10 threats that a Yanukovich election victory represents.

1. Little Russia: Mr. Yanukovich has no Ukrainian ethno-cultural awareness and sees Ukraine as firmly ensconced in the Russian sphere of influence. Mr. Yanukovich,

Dmytro Tabachnyk and other Party of Regions leaders have strongly condemned the alleged "nationalist" bias in Ukrainian history and would seek to change the manner in which Ukrainian history would be taught. The PRU, together with the Communist Party, voted against legislation on the Ukrainian Holodomor. There would be no possibility of official recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army under a Yanukovich presidency.

2. Russian as a second state language: This proposal was included in the PRU program for the 2006 and 2007 parliamentary elections.

3. Oligarchs: A Yanukovich election victory would mean a de facto takeover of Ukraine by the Donetsk criminal mafia. Donetsk oligarch Rinat Akhmetov, who is worth \$31 billion according to Korrespondent magazine, is one of the wealthiest persons in Eurasia and Europe.

4. Russian Orthodox Church: A Yanukovich victory would increase the spiritual occupation of Ukraine by the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church. Mr. Yanukovich accompanied Patriarch Kirill everywhere he traveled in Ukraine during his August visit.

5. Crimea: The range of powers given to the Crimean autonomous republic would be increased, and that could increase support for separatists. The PRU initiated the successful Crimean vote in September 2008 to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states.

6. Black Sea Fleet: The PRU has always supported Russia's plans to seek an indefinite extension of the basing agreement for the Russian Black Sea Fleet beyond 2017.

7. Single Economic Space: Mr. Yanukovich told the 2008 congress of the

Unified Russia Party led by Vladimir Putin that he would support Ukraine's membership in the Single Economic Space. The Single Economic Space of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was signed by President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Yanukovich in 2003.

8. NATO: While prime minister, Mr. Yanukovich told NATO in September 2008 that Ukraine did not need a Membership Action Plan (MAP). A MAP is considered the preparatory stage for eventual membership in NATO.

9. European Union: The PRU has never expressed any interest in implementing the Copenhagen Criteria required to join the EU. The PRU is the only large party in the Ukrainian Parliament that has never expressed an interest in affiliation with a political group in the European Parliament. Fatherland (Ms. Tymoshenko's original party), Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party are members of the European People's Party and the Socialist International, respectively.

10. Ukrainian World Congress: The PRU has never expressed any interest in contact or cooperation with the Ukrainian World Congress. Since 2002, during the last four elections the PRU and Mr. Yanukovich have revived Soviet-era attacks against "nationalism" in western Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora.

Overriding all other considerations then, the diaspora should be determined to not permit the election of Mr. Yanukovich in the January 2010 presidential elections that will be primarily a contest between Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich. Of the candidates who have emerged from the former Orange camp, only Ms. Tymoshenko has the ability, charisma, determination and experience to defeat Mr. Yanukovich.

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Shukhevych and the Nachtigall Battalion: Moscow's Fabrications

by Taras Hunczak

PART I

In this article I will not be responding to the numerous fabricated stories that are still being published in newspapers and books in Russia and elsewhere, which portray the freedom fighters of the Ukrainian resistance movement the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) or the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) as "fascists." Even in Ukraine today there are still significant numbers of people who maliciously defame those who sacrificed their lives for their country's freedom and independence. Clearly, certain individuals find it easier to make their scholarly careers by issuing groundless accusations. Where some of these accusers are concerned, this type of allegation is an unmistakable holdover from the Soviet propaganda era.

In the Russian Federation in particular, it is a matter of state policy to denigrate all past and present efforts of Ukrainians to be free in their own independent state. The decree issued on October 14, 2006 by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, whose goal was to bring about reconciliation between the veterans of the Red Army and the members of the Ukrainian resistance movement, was immediately criticized in an article published in a Moscow newspaper.¹ Thus, it is hardly a surprise indeed, it was to be expected that several individuals recently publicly accused the Commander in Chief of the UPA, General Roman Shukhevych, and the Nachtigall Battalion for crimes they did not commit.

Should one waste time arguing with people who make baseless accusations against Ukraine's resistance movement? I think not. It is more effective to convey to readers who desire to learn the truth about the dramatic and often tragic events of World War II in Ukraine by showing them evidence based on solid documentation.

The most enduring object of slander against the Ukrainian national liberation movement has been Stepan Bandera, who for many people remains a flag-bearer and symbol of the struggle for Ukraine's national dignity and political independence. Bandera and his followers have been characterized variously as "fascists," "Hitlerites," "collaborators," "Nazis," etc. However, like Hetman Ivan Mazepa or Symon Petliura, Bandera has become part of Ukrainian political history a symbol that is applied to anyone who was ever committed to the ideal of national independence. The Russians regarded even Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko as a "Banderite" (banderivka), wrote journalist Yurii Korohodsky.²

A storm of criticism against the Ukrainian resistance movement erupted in the Russian media in 2007, when President Yushchenko posthumously conferred the title of "Hero of Ukraine" on General Roman Shukhevych (nom de guerre: Taras Chuprynka), the Commander in Chief of the Ukrainian

Insurgent Army, who died in a shoot-out with special units of the MVD in March 1950. The award was presented to his son Yurii Shukhevych on October 14, 2007. On that occasion President Yushchenko called upon the parliament and government to grant official recognition to the members of the UPA, who had fought for the independence of Ukraine.³

Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded negatively to President Yushchenko's suggestion, viewing it as the latest in a string of anti-Russian manifestations, which, according to Russia, are cropping up in Ukraine. In its declaration of December 14, 2007, Russia expressed particular concern over the "rehabilitation of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army" because, as the Russians maintained, "it [is] well known that the bandit formations of the UPA participated in the Nazis' punitive actions."⁴ On June 23, 2008, the Russian government again criticized President Yushchenko for his decision to grant an award to Shukhevych, whom they identified as a "captain of the SS." It would have been constructive if the Russians had provided evidence to back their accusations. The commentary also stated that it is absolutely unacceptable to treat "Nazi criminals and the fighters of the OUN-UPA, and the veterans of the Great Patriotic War" as equals. What is particularly interesting to a historian is the Russian objection to "efforts to re-examine the consequences of World War II."⁵

The position of Russia's foreign ministry was restated by Vitaly Churkin, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the UN at a press conference held on October 28, 2008, during which he went so far as to call Roman Shukhevych a "Nazi." Furthermore, he said that "throughout the second world war they," i.e., the members of the Ukrainian resistance movement, "were part of the Nazi movement ..." The ambassador also stated that the majority of those people who were killing Jews in Babyn Yar were Ukrainian Nazis.⁶ Where did these Ukrainian Nazis come from? This was September 1941, the Nazis had just captured Kyiv.

This latest chapter in the vilification campaign against Shukhevych and the Nachtigall Battalion was started by Yosef Lapid, claiming to be the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, who, during President Yushchenko's state visit to Israel and his side-trip to Yad Vashem in November 2007, protested against the granting of the title "Hero of Ukraine" to Shukhevych. Lapid maintained that Shukhevych and the Nachtigall Battalion had participated in the murder of 4,000 Jews in Lviv⁷ in 1941. On December 6, 2007, he restated his position during a program aired by the international broadcaster Deutsche Welle: "We have a whole dossier which shows that Shukhevych was one of those implicated in mass murder. Ukraine has not yet asked us to hand over these documents."⁸

The Ukrainian government, which had

been cooperating with Yad Vashem, having already delivered 126,000 pages of various documents to Israel, decided to send an official delegation to Yad Vashem to uncover the truth about what really happened in Lviv. On February 27, 2008, Ihor Yukhnovsky, chairman of Ukraine's Institute of National Memory, and Volodymyr Viatrovych left for Israel. The next day they met with Yad Vashem's director, Avner Shalev, who informed the Ukrainian delegation that there is no separate dossier on Shukhevych and that Yosef Lapid, who had raised the issue, is not a member of Yad Vashem.⁹ The following question arises: whom can we trust when we, historians, try in an honest fashion to recreate the complexities of the past?

The Russian archives recently released, but most likely recently fabricated, documents that characterize the Ukrainian resistance movement as a tool of Nazi Germany, since the Germans controlled the leadership of the OUN, which had created the UPA.¹⁰ These documents, as well as the position of the Russian foreign ministry and Churkin's statement about the OUN, UPA, and General Shukhevych, in which Russia's Ambassador to the UN connects the Ukrainians' efforts to gain recognition for the Holodomor (the genocide by starvation in 1932-1933) with the alleged efforts of the Ukrainian leadership "to glorify ... individuals who supported the Nazis," are all fabrications whose objective is to create a negative image of the Ukrainian resistance movement, the central objective of which was the establishment of an independent Ukrainian state.

How could the Germans have controlled the leadership of the OUN when in July 1941 they had already placed under house arrest the two leaders of the organization, Stepan Bandera and Yaroslav Stetsko, who were then sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in January 1942? Their arrests were followed by mass arrests of other leading members of the OUN.¹¹ Only Mykola Lebed, whom Stetsko designated as the leader of the OUN, escaped arrest. During their manhunt for Lebed, on October 4, 1941, the German security services issued an all-points bulletin with Lebed's picture, warning that he was armed and dangerous.¹² He disappeared into the underground, from where he successfully conducted OUN operations and later, UPA actions. Lebed Section 0s wife Daria was less fortunate: the Germans captured her and sent her to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. So how did the OUN conduct its collaboration with the Nazis from inside the concentration camps or from the underground?

All of these events happened unexpectedly and within a short period of time, and they were triggered by the unilateral decision of the OUN leadership to proclaim in Lviv on June 30, 1941 the Restoration of the Ukrainian state without consulting the German authorities. By this act, the OUN challenged the

Germans' policy of converting Eastern Europe into a German colony, and the Germans responded instantly.¹³ Yaroslav Stetsko, who signed the Act of Restoration of the Ukrainian State, was told on the spot by the German intelligence officer, Hans Koch, that he was making a mistake. Koch demanded that the assembly be cancelled and warned Stetsko: "You are playing with fire."¹⁴ The German authorities interpreted the Proclamation of June 30 and the efforts of the OUN to establish a local government and police force as the Bandera leadership's attempt to "present the German authorities with a fait accompli."¹⁵

Berlin, hoping that the OUN would change its plans, dispatched Undersecretary of State Ernst Kundt to Cracow, where he held talks with Stepan Bandera, Volodymyr Horbovy, Vasyl Mudry, Stepan Shukhevych and Viktor Andriievsky. The meeting turned into a confrontation between Kundt and Bandera. While Kundt insisted that Germany alone had the right to decide the political future of Ukraine, Bandera explained that the struggle in which the Ukrainians were engaged was the struggle for a free and independent Ukraine. Furthermore, he declared that "the basis for full cooperation with German institutions was the goal of establishing an independent Ukrainian state ..."¹⁶ Bandera also explained to Kundt that in his decisions he did not depend on any German authority. "I wish once again to clarify, Bandera declared, that in all of the orders issued by me, I did not rely on any German authority or any consent of the German authorities, but only on the mandate that I received from the Ukrainian people..."¹⁷

I would suggest that those who make cavalier statements about the leadership of the OUN and UPA being pro-Nazi, particularly representatives of states or important institutions, should first examine the contents of reliable archival documents. After June 30, 1941, the Germans knew whose cause the OUN represented. That is why as early as August 5, 1941 a report issued by Armeoberkommando 17 talks about "Traveling Bandera-Propaganda Groups." On September 7, 1941, one finds "Ukrainian political agents of the Bandera Movement" in the category of undesirable individuals.¹⁸

The radicalization of the relations between the German authorities and the OUN proceeded apace, as we learn from a report that was introduced at the Nuremberg Trials. On November 25, 1941, the Einsatzkommando C/5 issued an order to its branches, stating: "It has been established with certainty that the Bandera Movement is preparing an uprising in the Reichskommissariat, whose ultimate objective is to create an independent Ukraine. All functionaries of the Bandera Movement are to be immediately arrested and, after a thorough interrogation, secretly liquidated as pillagers."¹⁹

(Continued on page 20)

1 Nataliia Pechorna, Nad Ukrainoi vitaet prizrak Bandery VPK 157 (no. 41), 25-31 October 2006. See also the article published on October 15, 2007, by the Russian Orthodox information agency Russkaia Linia. Also Ofitsiine Internet Predstavnytstvo Prezidenta Ukrainy Victora Yushchenka October 14, 2006. Ukaz Prezidenta Ukrainy Nr. 879/2006.

2 Yurii Korohodsky, Nebezpechni dreif Tymoshenko, Ukrainka Pravda, September 29, 2008.

3 Yushchenko doruchyv Tymoshenko vyznaty UPA, Ukrainka Pravda, October 14, 2007.

4 Zaiavlenie Ministerstva inostrannykh del Rossii v svyazi s antirossiiskimi proiavleniiami na Ukraine, http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/sp/8Bo2FF594F151D36C32573B1004930DC.

5 <http://www.in.mid.ru/brp4.nsf/0/75EABB35DB1CACCB1C325747100594B1A>. See also

Rosii skarzhytsia svitu na Ukrainu za OUN-UPA, www.PRAVDA.com.ua (24 June 2008).

6 <http://www.un.org/webcast/2008.html>.

7 Lviv is the current name of this Ukrainian city. Under Polish rule it was known as Lwów; under Austrian and German rule it was called Lemberg. In Russian it is known as Lvov.

8 See Halyna Coydash Section 0s lengthy and carefully documented article, Shukhevych charges a phantom of Soviet propaganda needing closure in Kyiv Post, March 19, 2008.

9 Maksym Medynsky, Taky heroi ne karatel! V arkhivi izrail'skoho memoriialnoho kompleksu Yad Vashem nemaie dosie na Romana Shukhevycha, Ukraina Moloda, March 5, 2008. See also Volodymyr Viatrovych, Kinets lehendy pro Nachtigall, Den (Kyiv), March 19, 2008.

10 Central Archive of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of the Russian Federation, fond

4, list 3, file 818, fols. 177-186.

11 See Bundesarchiv, R 58/214, Ereignismeldung UdSSR, Nr. 11, pp. 3-4. For a partial record of OUN-B members arrested during 1941-1943, see Bundesarchiv, R 58/223, Meldungen aus den besetzten Ostgebieten Nr. 41; see also The National Archives, Washington, D.C., T 175/274; T 175/146.

12 Copy of the Fahndungersuchen des Reichskriminalpolizei-amtes from the author Section 0s private collection.

13 It should be noted that some highly-placed Germans supported the idea of an independent Ukraine. See the letter of Admiral Canaris, the head of the Abwehr (German military intelligence service), Aktennotiz über die Besprechung mit dem Reichsleiter Rosenberg am 30. Mai 1941, Militär Archiv, Freiburg, RW 4/v.760.

14 For more details, see Yaroslav S. Stetsko, 30 chervnia 1941: Proholoshennia Derzhavnosti Ukrainy (Toronto: Ukrainka Vydavnycha Spilka, 1967), pp. 175-98.

15 SD report of 3 July 1941 in Bundesarchiv, R 58/214, Ereignismeldung UdSSR, Nr. 11, p. 58.

16 Niederschrift über die Rücksprache mit Mitgliedern des ukrainischen Nationalkomitees und Stepan Bandera vom 3.7.1941, Hoover Institute on War and Revolution, NSDAP No. 52, pp. 7-10.

17 Ibid. p. 14.

18 See Ukrainische politische Agitatoren und Überwachung des Zivilverkehrs in Freiburg, AOK 17/14499/51.

19 Internationaler Militär-Gerichtshof Nürnberg, Nürnberg 1949, vol. XXXIX, pp. 265, 269-70.

Columbia University announces courses and events of Ukrainian Studies Program

NEW YORK – By consistently offering courses in Ukrainian subjects and organizing diverse events for students and the public, the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University presents its participants with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Ukraine and witness the best that Ukrainian culture has to offer.

This autumn is no exception with seven courses in Ukrainian studies and several special events being offered.

During the fall semester, Dr. Yuri Shevchuk (department of Slavic languages) will present a course titled "Soviet and Post-Soviet, Colonial and Post-Colonial Cinema," which will explore how film was used in the Soviet era as a tool of domination over Soviet ethnic minorities, and how it continues to be used today by the Kremlin to further its influence in the post-Soviet newly independent states.

The course will examine how the colonized nations – Georgians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Estonians and others – both sided with and resisted their colonizer through film. Soviet period and post-Soviet films made in Russia and in its former colonies will also be studied, e.g. the latest films from Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Estonia and other former Soviet states. Classes meet on Tuesdays, 6:10-10 p.m.

Dr. Shevchuk will also teach three levels of Ukrainian language at Columbia this fall: Elementary Ukrainian (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:10-10:25 a.m.), Intermediate Ukrainian (Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:35-11:50 a.m.) and Advanced Ukrainian (Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:10-2:25 p.m.).

"Ukrainian Foreign Policy: Russia, Europe and the U.S." (Tuesdays, 11

a.m.-12:50 p.m.) is a new course which will be taught by a career diplomat, Ambassador Valeriy Kuchynsky. It will take students into the intricate world of international diplomacy and politics, and will help answer questions such as: What is behind the gas war between Russia and Ukraine? Are the prospects for Ukraine to join the European Union and NATO still alive? What is the strategic partnership between Kyiv and Washington?

Prof. Frank Sysyn, acting director of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia, will teach two history courses this fall. The first, "History of Modern Ukraine" (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:10-2:25 p.m.) will concentrate on the evolution of Ukrainians as a people and the emergence of Ukraine as a territorial and political concept. These questions will be examined in relation to the diverse cultural and national composition of the "Ukrainian territories" and the existence of other territorial and political projects.

Prof. Sysyn will also teach a course titled "Early Modern Russia, Ukraine, and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth" (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m.). He will examine the politics, societies and cultures of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Ukrainian Kozak Hetmanate, and Muscovy-Imperial Russia in the 16th to 18th centuries. Special attention will be paid to the interaction of states and the flow of social models and cultural developments. The role of Poland in the "Westernization" of Ukraine and Russia will be a major theme, as well as the relation of Western and Eastern Christianity, the consequences of the Kozak revolts, the remaking of Eastern Europe by the rise of the Russian Empire, and the relation of the political thought and identities of the period to modern nations.



Yuri Andrukhovych, who will be appearing at Columbia University in October, is seen above in the Swiss Alps.

Ukrainian extracurricular events at Columbia are designed to complement the course offerings for students and to appeal to a wider audience as well. Attendees have the occasion to meet others who share an interest in Ukraine, be introduced to scholars who are at the forefront of Ukrainian studies and learn about the latest academic research on Ukraine. Among the events planned are the following, all of which are free and open to the public.

- Addressing the controversies sparked by certain cultural happenings of 2009, the year marking the 200th anniversary of writer Mykola Hohol's/Nikolai Gogol's birth, the program is organizing a lecture on October 13 to be presented by Dr. Edyta Bojanowska of Rutgers University. Dr. Bojanowska is the author of the recent publication "Nikolai Gogol: Between Ukrainian and Russian Nationalism" (Harvard University Press, 2007), which provides a groundbreaking look at the writer's fractured identity as it is reflected in his life and work.

- On Thursday, October 22, Columbia University will host writer Yuri Andrukhovych. Mr. Andrukhovych's appearance is part of the ongoing Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series co-hosted with the Kennan Institute in Washington (where he will appear on October 20), which for the third consecutive year offers audiences in North America the opportunity to meet the top writers in Ukraine. Mr. Andrukhovych, one of the best-known Ukrainian writers, has an international following and will visit the U.S. after an eight-year absence. This promises to be one of the top Ukrainian cultural events of the year in the Northeast.

- On Friday, November 20, Columbia University's Harriman Institute and the Ukrainian Studies Program will conduct a conference titled "The Orange Revolution: Five Years Since." The all-day affair will focus on what has changed in Ukraine since the momentous events of

November 2004 and what has not. The conference will also provide a comparative aspect by offering updates and analyses of other "colored revolutions" that have taken place in the region and by presenting opinions by the area's leading experts of what political changes can be expected in the near future. The conference, presented on the eve of the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine, will conclude with a presentation of new films produced on the topic of the Orange Revolution.

- The Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, recently accredited by the Ukrainian National Cinematographers' Union as the forum of Ukrainian film in the West, will continue its activities on campus and beyond, screening films across North America. The season-opening event will take place on September 24 at 7:30 p.m. (Room 703, Hamilton Hall) and will feature the New York City premier of a gripping new feature documentary by Victoria Melnykova, "The Fourth Wave." The film explores aspects of the mass emigration from Ukraine of the past decade (details at www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc). The club will hold events on campus at least once a month, screening new films from its growing collection. All films will have English subtitles. Screenings are free and open to the public.

Courses at Columbia are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area seeking credit, as well as to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. Additionally, through the Lifelong Learners program, individuals over age 65 who are interested in auditing courses may enroll at a discount rate.

September 18 is the final day to register for a class. For more information about courses and the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, readers may contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk at ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697.



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BOOK NOTES

A collection of essays on leadership

"Leadership: Combat Leaders and Lessons," essays by members of the class of 1959 at the United States Military Academy, Col. James L. Abrahamson, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Col. Andrew P. O'Meara, Jr., U.S. Army (Ret.), editors. Bigfork, Mon.: Stand Up America, USA, 2008. ISBN 978-0-615-25574-3. 216 pp., \$32 hardcover, \$18 paperback.

by Roman Mac

Recently the West Point Class of 1959 presented to the class of 2009 a book with essays on leadership. Based on the 50-year span between the years of their respective graduations the two classes are "affiliated." While the book is for West Point cadets who will soon be commissioned officers in the U.S. Army, it could be equally useful for young military officers with commissions from other sources.

Fifteen authors of the 25 essays wrote in the spirit of the U.S. Military Academy motto, "Duty, Honor, Country." Some of them chose to present examples of leadership by famous West Point graduates. Others described personal experiences.

The two editors, who also wrote a number of the essays, are retired Cols. James L. Abrahamson and Andrew P. O'Meara. Both are distinguished soldiers and scholars. Col. Abrahamson, who is also a professor of history disputes mass media claims that American soldiers and marines have been ill-prepared to fight "nation-building" wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. He argues that American officers effectively accomplished political, social and economic tasks, while also fighting those who threaten their units and their allies. Col. Abrahamson describes General Pershing's success against the Moros in the Philippines more than a century ago. Pershing's methods bear a similarity to what Gen. Petraeus accomplished recently in Iraq.

Col. O'Meara presents number of essays. One of them depicts the gallant leadership of Gen. Douglas Mac Arthur in the trenches of World War I; another presents lessons learned about integrity while Col. O'Meara was serving as a tank battalion commander in Fort Hood in 1975.



This book also contains two interesting articles by retired Maj. Gen. Nicholas Krawciw, a U.S. Army officer of Ukrainian origin. One of his essays describes a leadership example from his second combat tour in Vietnam when his armored cavalry squadron commander prevented a possible killing of civilians in 1968.

Gen. Krawciw's other essay consists of his observations of Arab and Israeli battle preparation activities in 1972-1973 and actual operations during the Yom Kippur War of October 1973.

Maj. Gen. William Cohen, U.S. Air Force, who flew for the Israeli Air Force during that war, wrote how he handled issues of honesty and integrity while he was a lieutenant in the Strategic Air Command.

A fascinating short essay about the tenacity and drive of Ulysses Grant is presented by retired U.S. Air Force Sergeant Michael Faber, honorary member of the class of 1959. He became a member of the class as a result of untiring efforts over a number of years to secure the Medal of Honor (posthumously) for Capt. Rocky Versace, class

(Continued on page 20)

"Creative non-fiction" account of a young Ukrainian's life

"Once There Was and Will Never Be Again" by Gloria Siers. Mount Pleasant, MI: Autumnberry Hill, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-615-25733-4. 319 pp., hardcover \$22.95.

Classified by the author as a work of "creative non-fiction," "Once There Was and Will Never Be Again" is a lyrical telling of the early life of the author's father, Peter Fedyk. The story adeptly details not only the hardships suffered by western Ukrainians living under various foreign regimes, wars and other adverse conditions, but also the personal hardships the protagonist's family faces at the turn of the 20th century.

This narrative takes the reader on the young boy's journey "through times of war, prejudices, sadness, joy and hope." It follows his characteristically Ukrainian experience, from farm chores and days learning at the whitewashed village schoolhouse to traditional Christmas and Easter celebrations and a Ukrainian Catholic wedding.

The tale not only underscores the impact of historical events on the Ukrainian people, but also describes and explains many Ukrainian folk customs and ceremonies for posterity. The story is as rich in details as it is in Ukrainian traditions.

The author states that the book, which follows young Peter until the age of 18, when he left his family in search of a new life outside of Ukraine, "was written primarily as a way of preserving [her] father's Ukrainian history for future generations."

Mr. Fedyk, who left Ukraine in 1928,



was the former secretary of Ukrainian National Association Branch 292 in Detroit from the early 1950s until his passing in the late 1970s.

Gloria Siers is a geography instructor at Central Michigan University. She currently lives with her husband in Isabella County, Mich.

"Once There Was and Will Never Be Again" can be purchased in Mount Pleasant, Mich., at Book Mark on South Mission Street or The Book Garden on South Main Street. Readers may also purchase a copy of this book through Amazon.com.

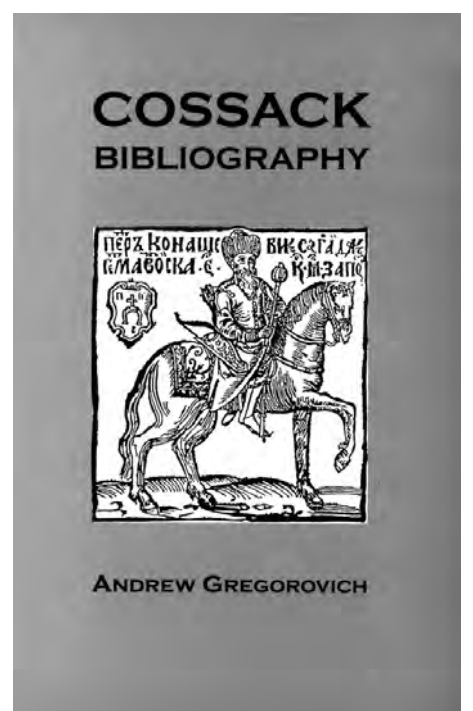
Kozak history catalogue serves as valuable reference for scholars

"Cossack Bibliography," by Andrew Gregorovich, New York: The Basilian Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-921537-65-6. 371pp. \$50 USD (hardcover)

This is the first book of its kind in the world on the important role of the Kozaks (Cossacks) in European history. As a reference source for academics and scholars, the book contains 1,500 entries in a dozen European languages on the Zaporizhian, Kuban and Don Kozaks of Ukraine, among others. In addition to English, which has over 800 entries, there are listings in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Czech, Swedish, Dutch, Latin and, of course, Ukrainian.

Items from 700 years of Kozak history, from 1330-2007, are included, with copies of 30 rare maps, 186 illustrations and Kozak-related titles from, among others, Lord Byron, Sir Walter Scott, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, Napoleon, Taras Shevchenko, Mykola Hohol (Nikolai Gogol), Piotr Tchaikovsky and Rembrandt. President Abraham Lincoln's "Kozak General," John Basil Turchin, is also included.

Since 1967, Andrew Gregorovich has been editor of Forum Magazine, published by the Ukrainian Fraternal Association. For 30 years Mr. Gregorovich served as department head at the University of Toronto library system. A Saskatoon native, Mr. Gregorovich was the first Canadian-born member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Other



positions held include chairman of the Toronto Historical Board, president of the Ontario Library Association and president of the Canadian Multilingual Press Federation. In the Ukrainian community, Mr. Gregorovich served as president of the Ukrainian Libraries Association of Canada, executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center, where he assisted

(Continued on page 19)

A handbook for immigrants

"Starting Over in the U.S. After Getting Your Green Card: An Indispensable Handbook for Immigrants" by Elzbieta Baumgartner, Douglaston, NY: Polpress Services, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-0770453-0-3. 264 pp., softcover \$25.95.

"Starting Over in the U.S. After Getting Your Green Card" is a comprehensive guide for new immigrants about residential and citizenship requirements, as well as clarifications about personal finance, protection against identity theft, Social Security and tax obligations, and other important details pertaining to building a new life in the United States.

The Polish Daily News writes that "this much-needed guidebook can be truly called Personal Finance 101 for Immigrants."

This handbook not only gives advice on how to start over in a new country, but also how to fix past mistakes that might otherwise disqualify individuals from citizenship. It is part of Polpress's series called "New American Guides," which seeks to aid immigrants and new citizens in acclimating to life in the United States.

Copies of this book may be obtained through Amazon.com, and the book is



available for preview on Google Books (<http://books.google.com>). It is also available directly from the publisher at www.NewAmericanGuides.com or by calling 718-224-3492. The book is available in paperback for \$25.95 or as a downloadable PDF for \$15.

Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome revives activity after 20 years

by Andriy Kozlov

ROME – The St. Clement Institute of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) on July 12 graduated its International Summer University (ISU) 2009 students. This year's program is the second one after the renewal of summer schools in Rome in 2006 after an almost 20-year break.

The Rev. Iwan Dacko, director of UCU Rome, explained the knotty history of UCU in Rome: "Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, starting in 1963, organized 16 summer academic courses through the network of UCU in Rome. Back in those days, Rome was a meeting point for professors and students from different countries of the Ukrainian diaspora. It was an occasion to meet with Patriarch Josyf, tour the Eternal City, and discover numerous centers of art and culture throughout Italy. For the young it was a time of spiritual explorations, an occasion to rethink their spirituality."

When Ukraine became a sovereign state, the main attention of Ukrainian leaders was focused on its numerous needs. UCU was gradually moved to Lviv.

The Rev. Dacko continued: "Our grand chancellor, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, and the rector of the university, the Rev. Borys Gudziak, with the consent of the senate decided to reactivate the UCU in Rome. Three years ago, we successfully held the first summer academic course, 'Rome between East and West.' Since then various conferences, meetings with students, and retreats have taken place here."

ISU 2009 was held from June 28 to July 12, under the title "Rome and Byzantium" and gathered 36 researchers, professors, and students from Ukraine, Poland, Germany and Italy. The participants took part in the celebration of the liturgy by the pope in St. Peter's Cathedral and went on various tours around Rome under the guidance of Dr. Ewa Rybalt and Msgr. Max Eugen Kemper. Excursions were dedicated to artistic values and the early Church heritage of Rome.

To enhance the comparison between East and West, the organizers offered invaluable tours to Florence, Castelli Romani, Arezzo and Ravenna, the former capital of the Western Roman Empire.

Regarding the importance of the trip to

Ravenna, the Rev. Dr. Gudziak said: "This is an amazing multi-faceted experience. We are learning, we are studying, but we are also on a spiritual pilgrimage. For the seasoned professors, junior faculty, as well as the young students, new horizons are being uncovered with practical repercussions for our research and professional development."

The Rev. Gudziak gave an example: "Since we are building a new university in Lviv, we are looking at how Ravenna was built, Christian Ravenna; how after a time of persecution Christianity was incarnated in architecture, in art, how it was communicated. We live in a time after persecution, after the collapse of a big empire. Christians in the Soviet Union are like the post-apostolic generations in the late Roman Empire. Seeing how cultural models were synthesized then gives us great inspiration for an analogous task today."

The program also included visiting many Ukrainian institutions and bureaus in Rome, including the Ukrainian Embassy to the Holy See, where the participants were hosted by Ambassador Tetyana Izhevskaya. Students also visited the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and the prefect of the congregation, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri.

Cardinal Sandri expressed his admiration of Ukraine, and UCU in particular, saying: "Your visit here is for us a very great occasion to renew our love, our affection, our friendship with Ukrainians in general and the Greek-Catholic Church in Ukraine. For me it is also a great joy to receive you at the end of the commemoration of one year of my visit to your country and I remember my visit to your Catholic university."

The cardinal then added: "Our congregation is very happy to help you in the measure of its possibilities. We are always looking for more sources to be useful for you and other initiatives in the Oriental Churches. Even with the difficulties of the economic crisis, we think that we will be able to help you more and more, and I hope in the future our possibilities will be growing and will be for us a great occasion to help you, because we admire your work and your inspiration."

The purpose of UCU's summer program was to emphasize the need for spiritual and intellectual integration between Eastern and



Msgr. Max Eugen Kemper (right) shares his knowledge of the Sancta Sanctorum Chapel with the Rev. Iwan Dacko (left) and other participants of the International Summer University of St. Clement Institute of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

Western Christianity.

A Polish researcher of ancient Rome, Prof. Adam Ziolkowski, was amazed at the vast number of places connected to Ukraine in this city. This is how he described the international aspect of ISU: "We started as neighbors, 1000 years ago. Then our history started to interweave, and the closer we were the less we knew about each other. A wall of prejudice born of ignorance managed to somehow grow. And now we are able once again to try to dismantle this wall of prejudice. Such meetings have to be cherished and continued."

Meanwhile, Prof. Mariya Zubrytska, prorector for science, pedagogy and teaching at Ivan Franko National University in Lviv, noted "the unique possibility to touch the deep past, to visit Ravenna where East and West met to build a new paradigm of culture, of communication. And the feeling of this deep touching to the past enforced more for us these deeds, because we have a sense, a feeling, of self-confidence, that we are rooted in tradition. And if our past generations managed to insert this force, we also can."

Summer programs of this kind have a twofold goal: first, to revive and institutionalize the religious and educational center that was established by the late Patriarch Josyf; second, to create a platform for more appreciation of Ukraine's large European heritage both in Ukraine and in the rest of the world.

Student Iryna Papa concluded: "This course illustrates the importance of social communication between people who live in different countries, especially Ukrainians in the diaspora or foreigners who are interested in Ukraine." She added: "The existence of UCU in Rome makes us closer to Europe, and when we enter the premises of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome we feel as if we are at home."

The 2009 International Summer University was really an excellent example of cooperation and generous support from various entities and individuals. Organizers especially cited the support of the St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.A., Belgium, the United Kingdom and Italy.

Dr. Maria Fischer-Slysh dedicates "History of Ukraine-Rus" to parents

EDMONTON, Alberta – A well-known patron of Ukrainian studies and culture, Dr. Maria Fischer-Slysh, who recently donated \$1 million to the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, has undertaken to sponsor a volume of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'." She is dedicating the volume to the memory of her parents, Dr. Adolf and Olha Slyz.

Dr. Fischer-Slysh was born in Kolomyia, western Ukraine, in 1922 and spent her childhood in the historic city of Belz, before moving with her family to Lviv in 1933. She attended the Ukrainian Academic Gymnasium in Lviv, but after the Soviet occupation of western Ukraine fled with her family and finished her secondary school in Kholm.

She completed her medical studies in Munich in 1949 and emigrated with her family to the United States in 1950. She practiced as a pediatrician in Kankakee, Ill. In 1959 she married Dr. Rudolf Fischer, who was born in Straubing, Bavaria, and completed his medical studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Dr. Fischer passed away in 1982.

Dr. Fischer-Slysh now resides in Toronto. She is a longtime member of

the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) in Chicago, head of the Friends of the Academic Gymnasium in the Diaspora and a member of the board of the Canadian Society of the Friends of Ukraine. She is also a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the League of Ukrainian Philanthropists.

A generous donor to numerous scholarly undertakings in Ukraine and Canada, she has made the largest donation in the history of the Ukrainian Catholic University, an institution that is cooperating with CIUS in the new Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Modern Society and History.

Dr. Fischer-Slysh's donation of \$100,000 to the Hrushevsky Translation Project will make possible the completion of Volume 9, Book 2, Part 2. The volume is the last in Hrushevsky's account of Bohdan Khmelnytsky's hetmancy. The volume was translated by Marta Olynyk. Dr. Yaroslav Fedoruk and Dr. Frank Sysyn serve as scholarly editors of the volume, and Myroslav Yurkevich is the managing editor. The volume will be published by CIUS Press in 2010.



Drs. Rudolf Fischer and Maria Fischer-Slysh in an undated family photo.

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Institute of Church History organizes visit to Lviv's Lontskyi Street prison

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – On July 13 the Institute of Church History (ICH) of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) organized a trip to Lviv's infamous prison on Lontskyi Street (now called Stepan Bandera Street) – the site of many Soviet atrocities in the 1940s. This is one of the many ways that the ICH has worked to preserve and promote the history of the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The retreating Soviets shot and tortured to death some 4,000 people in the Lontskyi Street Prison on June 24, 1941. "What happened here is awful," said Anatolii Matios, former head of the Security Service of Ukraine in the Lviv region. "The prison still conceals much that is unknown. The inscriptions we read in the attic are striking. One can smell blood here."

The Center for Research on the Liberation Movement and the Security Service of Ukraine recently opened the first stage of an exposition dedicated to victims of occupying regimes at the Lontskyi Street Prison. A group from UCU's Institute of Church History visited the exposition.

"Outside the entrance to the prison we stopped and viewed a wreath laid there in memory of Father Roman Lysko [beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001]," said Iryna Kolomyiets, director of the ICH pastoral department. "He was tortured to death here. Witnesses testify to the cruel treatment of the priest. The walls recall many other spiritual persons who were brought here for interrogation."

"There is a stand with the names of those liquidated: Ukrainians, Poles, Jews. ... The list is endless. Among them are the names of people that we know about through interviews that are preserved in our archives," noted Ms. Kolomyiets.

The Institute of Church History was founded in 1992 by the Rev. Borys Gudziak, Ph.D., currently the rector of UCU. "We have a unique opportunity to preserve something that is of universal importance," said the Rev. Gudziak about the institute's initial mission to record the underground history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the 20th century.

The focus of the institute's work in the early years was to interview the better-known members of the underground: clergy, religious and laity. It was hoped these people would direct the ICH to more obscure underground members. In turn, they were interviewed, and so the circle expanded.

"Each interview is subjective," said Dr. Oleh Turiy, who succeeded the Rev. Gudziak as director of the institute and is now the chairman of UCU's Department

of Church History. "People forget. They try to make things look better than they were. They are silent about some things. But when we have numerous interviews, together with archival documents, we can determine what is true."

Since its founding, the institute has gathered more than 1,900 interviews, each lasting from one to 10 hours. Each cassette is transcribed word for word. The transcriber's work is then checked to correct any mechanical copying mistakes or to clarify certain words, but not to alter the authentic text. Because magnetic tape deteriorates over time, the institute has begun re-recording the interviews digitally.

The next step in the process is scholarly work. Staff members use the interviews while writing articles or planning courses on Church history that they teach at the university. And, more and more outside researchers come to the institute from other universities, even from other faiths and countries.

The Institute of Jewish Studies in Kyiv, for example, has used the institute's methodology – questionnaires, forms and interviewing techniques – to conduct research on the Holocaust in Ukraine.

As institute staff conducted interviews with survivors of the underground, they noticed that many were in need of moral, and often material, support. Active underground members had been marginalized in Soviet society. If they survived life in prison or in the labor camps, upon release they were given only the most menial jobs, if allowed to work at all. Consequently, in their old age they receive pensions even lower than most retirees.

To help these pensioners, the institute founded its pastoral department in 1993. Ms. Kolomyiets herself is the daughter of an underground priest who was sent to a labor camp because "he never made any compromise with the atheist government." Many of these underground survivors knew her father, so, "when I'm chatting with them," Ms. Kolomyiets said, "it's like I'm with my father. For me, they are each a little part of him."

The institute has gone beyond its original goals of recording the history of the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church. For example, it organized a seminar in 2008 on the activities of Ukrainian Baptists under communism. It also is working together with Orthodox and other scholars to publish a definitive history of the controversial Union of Brest of 1596, by which part of the Church of Kyiv restored ecclesiastical communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

And last September it co-organized a conference on the history of the church of



Iryna Kolomyiets (far right), director of the pastoral department of the ICH; the Rev. Andriy Mykhaleyko, (second from left) director of the ICH; and other institute staff listen as Ihor Derevianyi of the Center for Research on the Liberation Movement talks about the Lontskyi Prison's infamous history.

Kyiv with the participation of all three of Ukraine's major Orthodox jurisdictions.

"The atmosphere in which the conference was conducted," recounted Dr. Turiy, "helped the participants be sincere, and this is the most important result. This wasn't planned artificially, but was the consequence of a serious approach to very significant problems."

The Rev. Andriy Mykhaleyko, Ph.D., an alumnus of Holy Spirit Seminary and the Ukrainian Catholic University, became the institute's third director in the fall of 2008. He said that "the priority task is the project of the living history of the underground. Much work has been done on gathering interviews with witnesses, but now we need to take a step forward and engage scholars to analyze and write scholarly works based on the collected materials. We also want to develop a database for Internet resources where these materials will be described and accessible for scholars who will then be able to work in our archive."

"We don't want to do propaganda," Dr. Turiy summed up with a shrug. "We had enough of that in the [Soviet] past. We are simply trying to present the truth. We are convinced this will strengthen our own faith and the faith of other people."

Further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) is available on the university's website at www.ucu.edu.ua. Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, which is the largest supporter of UCU's annual



A recent visit to Lviv's infamous Lontskyi Street Prison, where Blessed Father Roman Lysko (pictured) was martyred, covered familiar ground for the Institute of Church History (ICH) of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

operating budget.

The UCEF may be contacted at 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; telephone, 773-235-8462; e-mail, ucef@ucef.org; website, www.ucef.org. The phone number of the UCEF in Canada is 416-239-2495.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Club. Ms. Bohatyriova responded to questions from the Jamestown Foundation and Ariel Cohen of the Heritage Foundation on PRU leader Viktor Yanukovich's support of South Ossetian and Abkhaz independence. Ms. Bohatyriova called Mr. Yanukovich's stance a "personal viewpoint" that did not reflect the collective leadership of the party.

Oleksander Yefremov of PRU disagreed, claiming that Mr. Yanukovich's position was the outcome of a "consolidated point of view of the Political Council of the PRU. It was not the viewpoint of one person."

During her visit, Ms. Bohatyriova said she supported President Viktor Yushchenko's attempt to unite politicians and Ukraine, and was critical of other

political leaders placing their personal interests above national ones. Criticizing these politicians, she added, "they frequently use foreign challenges for their party and electoral plans despite the risks of a threat to national security."

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described Mr. Yanukovich's call for recognition of the breakaway regions in Georgia as "harming the national interests of Ukraine," "provocative," "irresponsible" and "unpleasant."

A statement by the PRU faction did not support Mr. Yanukovich and PRU's Crimean branch in their position on the Georgian conflict with Russia. The statement blamed the authorities for not remaining neutral and launching a "massive anti-Russian propaganda campaign."

The PRU called for the formation of an investigative commission into the arms sales between Georgia and Ukraine.

Many politicians pointed out that arms sales between the two countries have been ongoing since they were begun by Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Eduard Shevardnadze and also under Mr. Yanukovich's government from

2002-2004.

Source: "Party of Regions splits over Georgia and NATO," by Taras Kuzio (*Eurasia Daily Monitor*), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 7, 2008.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

said. However, the president said, Ukraine stands for mutual respect by the two countries and building equal relations, including trade, and against a "policy of constraints." In this context, Mr. Yushchenko pointed to a number of unresolved issues, particularly the creation of a free trade zone. "We're sorry that since the establishment of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] only 4 percent of the agreements reached within its framework have actually been implemented... We support pragmatism in our relations. But pragmatism means that we must form primarily modern market economic relations, which should, of course, be based on a free trade zone," Mr. Yushchenko stated. Separately he pointed to the need to form a new customs policy "that should not be a blood

clot in the channel of exchange of goods, services or investment." He added that "We oppose any restrictions in the area of goods, services, investment and labor trade." Finally, the president stated: "We, of course, expect that our partners adequately approach the realization of our common opportunities. So once again I, as the president, address the president of Russia and Russian authorities with a call to enhance our dialogue, our relations, to stop involving politics in these relations as it has happened a few weeks ago." (Press Office of the President of Ukraine)

PM against national status for Russian

LVIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, as long as it is in power, will not allow the Russian language to be granted national status, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said on August 20. "While our team is in power, and I think this will remain so in the future, we won't allow anybody to raise the question of a second

state language," she said at an annual meeting of the Ukrainian World Congress of Ukrainians in Lviv. Ms. Tymoshenko said that the language issue was not currently urgent for Ukraine, because even the supporters of granting national status to Russian "teach their children Ukrainian," and she added that "The Ukrainian language has currently become fashionable." (Interfax-Ukraine)

Ukraine refutes Russian claim

KYIV – On August 24 – Ukraine's Independence Day – a spokesman for the Russian Procurator General's Investigative Committee said Russia had "irrefutable evidence" that militants from UNA-UNSO (Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense) fought in the August 2008 Russian-Georgian war. Russian state television aired amateur video shot on a cellular telephone of Georgian soldiers drinking alcohol in an outdoor setting with people identified as their Ukrainian instructors, allegedly before the conflict. The same report included footage of Ukrainian surface-to-air missile systems being fired against Russian aircraft during the war – missile systems which, according to the Russian Investigative Committee, had undergone technical maintenance in Ukraine two months before the war – and "people speaking with a Ukrainian accent" searching the body of a dead Russian pilot and giving orders to Georgian soldiers standing nearby. "The involvement of career officers of the Ukrainian army [in the war] is already part of this neighboring country's state policy," concluded the report. But the Defense Ministry of Ukraine has said no Ukrainian troops fought in the war. Speaking to RFE/RL's Russian Service, UNA-UNSO spokesman Ihor Mazur also denied the claim. "I can responsibly say that neither UNA-UNSO units nor its individual members were present in the conflict zone. After the conflict, a group of our guys went [to the conflict zone] to document the results of the war," Mr. Mazur told RFE/RL in Kyiv. "We think this is yet another trick by Russia's intelligence services to cover up their incompetence by inventing a myth about 200 or 300 fighters. They have failed to produce any real documents, any passports. They are bluffing again ahead of the presidential election in Ukraine to put pressure on [Ukrainian President Viktor] Yushchenko." (RFE/RL)

Ukraine's envoy on accusations

KYIV – Ukraine's Ambassador to Russia Kostiantyn Gryshchenko has said that Russia's accusations that Ukrainian military servicemen and members of the UNA-UNSO nationalist organization could have been involved in last year's conflict in the Caucasus are groundless. "The Procurator's Office should resort to facts, but the facts point to quite the opposite. If there are such facts, we should be informed about them," he said live on Channel 5 TV, while commenting on a statement by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Procurator's Office. Mr. Gryshchenko said he had several meetings dealing with this problem with high-ranking officials at the Russian Foreign Ministry, during which he clearly explained that any accusations should be based on facts, especially when Ukraine is being accused of its involvement in the Russian-Georgian conflict without any evidence of this. Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said on August 25 that Ukrainians had not participated in the military conflict in South Ossetia last year. The Ukrainian Procurator General's Office received a request from the Investigative Committee of the Russian Procurator's Office and submitted the

document for consideration by the SBU. The SBU press center said that an official response would be made, and added that the response would be "based on the results of the checks that have recently been conducted – Ukrainians were not involved in a military conflict in South Ossetia last year." First Deputy Secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Stepan Havrysh described claims by Russia as "provocation." He added, "It looks like the Investigative Committee's statement was a quite expected step in a chain of provocations addressed to and aimed against Ukraine." (Ukrinform)

Condolences on Kennedy's death

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on August 26 sent condolences on the death of U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy. "Ukraine knew Sen. Kennedy as a defender of equal opportunities, honesty and justice for all Americans, as well as democratic freedoms and human rights all over the world," the condolences read. "For many people, not just in the United States, but outside the U.S., he was an example of a public figure, an advocate of a strong state and politician of principle, a prominent figure, who left a large footprint on the sands of modern time," President Yushchenko noted. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, NATO sign declaration

KYIV – Ukraine and NATO signed a declaration on supplementing the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership dated July 9, 1997. The head of the Ukraine's mission to NATO, Ihor Sahach, and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen signed the document at the alliance's headquarters on August 21, according to the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry. The document reflects changes in relations between Ukraine and NATO that have happened since the signing of the original charter in 1997, particularly in the context of decisions taken in 2008 regarding Ukraine's future membership in the alliance and practical mechanisms for achieving this goal. The declaration formalized the leading role of the Ukraine-NATO Commission in the process of deepening reforms in Ukraine that will be implemented as part of national annual programs. The first annual national program for 2009 on preparing Ukraine for NATO membership was approved by President Viktor Yushchenko on August 7. (Ukrinform)

Kostenko transferred to Beijing

KYIV – Yuri Kostenko has been dismissed from the post of the first deputy minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine due to a transfer to another appointment, it was reported on August 21. Mr. Kostenko will head Ukraine's diplomatic mission to Beijing. He was appointed as Ukraine's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to China by a presidential decree signed July 3. (Ukrinform)

Eight killed in coal mine blast

KYIV – Eight people were killed and 19 others were injured as a result of a gas explosion at the Kirov coal mine in the town of Makiyivka, Donetsk region, on August 24. The territorial department of the State Committee for Industrial Safety, Labor Protection and Mining Supervision said that a commission had been formed to investigate the causes of the accident. On August 26 the Cabinet of Ministers allocated 8.7 million hrv from a reserve fund of the state budget to mitigate the effects of the coalmine accident. Of that amount, 2 million hrv is meant to help the families of the miners killed in the accident. (Ukrinform)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Ministry denies trafficking of organs

KYIV – The Ukrainian Ministry of Health expressed concern over some foreign media reports that discredit Ukrainian authorities by means of untruthful reports that Ukraine is involved in the illegal trafficking of human organs. An article by Germany's Der Spiegel magazine cited by many Ukrainian media said that the Bavarian company Tutogen illegally received organs of the deceased via its partner in Ukraine and sold them to the United States. According to an Ukrinform correspondent in Germany, the prosecutor's office of Bamberg (Bavaria) is now checking the publication. The Ukrainian Health Ministry noted that the Spiegel article confused, either through ignorance or deliberately, grafts with bio-implants. The ministry said that the state-run company Bioimplant does not conduct recovery of organs of the deceased for transplantation, but that it produces bio-implants from anatomic materials. Ukraine's chief transplantologist, Oleksander Kukharchuk, commented on the Spiegel article and stressed that numerous checks by the Procurator General's Office and Internal Affairs Ministry in 2004-2008 did not reveal any violations of Ukrainian legislation by Bioimplant. Representatives of Tutogen are currently declining to comment other than to deny any accusations. (Ukrinform)

St. Sophia facade to be restored

KYIV – The St. Sophia of Kyiv Reserve and the Kyiv-based Ukrrestavratsia Company agreed on carrying out restoration of the facade of the St. Sophia Cathedral, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. According to the reserve, the contract's value is nearly 1.35 billion hrv (7.94 hrv = \$1 U.S.). The St. Sophia Cathedral was built in the 11th century on the order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise. The St. Sophia Reserve, in addition to St. Sophia Cathedral, includes about 50 architectural monuments, including the Golden Gates and the churches of St. Cyril and St. Andrew. (Ukrinform)

Foreign direct investment plunges

KYIV – The net growth of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ukraine during the period of January through June was estimated at \$2.359 billion, which was 34.1 percent of the figure registered in the first half of 2008, the State Statistics Committee reported on August 17. The overall amount of FDI as of July 1 hit \$37.966 billion, which was 6.6 percent up since the beginning of 2008. Investment per capita was \$823.9, the source said. According to the committee, foreign capital growth in the first half of 2009 was seen at companies whose core business is finance (by \$861 million), real estate, leasing, engineering and entrepreneurial services (\$454.9 million), trade, automobile repair, household products and personal goods (\$141.5 million), as well as at industrial companies (\$582 million), including at processing ones (\$522.6 million). Investments in Ukraine came from 125 countries. The top 10 investors accounting for over 81 percent of the

overall FDI were: Cyprus (\$8.064 billion), Germany (\$6.531 billion), the Netherlands (\$3.717 billion), Austria (\$2.490 billion), the United Kingdom (\$2.330 billion), Russia (\$2.125 billion), France (\$1.573 billion), the United States (\$1.369 billion), the British Virgin Islands (\$1.324 billion) and Sweden (\$1.259 billion). (Interfax-Ukraine)

Poles recall events of 1989

PRAGUE – The momentous summer of 1989 was a time of disintegration and rebirth for Central and Eastern Europe. The once-impregnable Iron Curtain was cracking, and the edifice of communism was tottering. The month of August saw a human chain stretching across the three Baltic states, as 2 million people joined hands to protest the Moscow-Berlin pact that had placed them inside the Soviet sphere of influence. The same month, Hungary's opposition staged its "Pan-European Picnic," an event which led to a mass breaching of the Iron Curtain by hundreds of East Germans, who were allowed to cross into the West without hindrance. And in Warsaw, a member of Poland's independent Solidarity labor movement became the first non-Communist leader of a Central or Eastern European country since World War II. The new prime minister was Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a dissident journalist who had edited Solidarity's journal. August 24 marks the 20th anniversary of that first post-Communist government. "I want to form a government that is able to help society, the nation and the country. I want to be a prime minister for all the Polish people," Mr. Mazowiecki said in 1989, expressing hope to Parliament that he could end the divisions in Polish society. In long negotiations with the government, the union had earlier gained agreement that a full one-third of the seats in the Sejm would be freely contested in the June 4 national elections that year. Non-Communists took all but one of those seats, and by September Mr. Mazowiecki won a vote of confidence in Parliament by a sweeping vote of 402 to 0, with 13 abstentions. Solidarity had beaten the Communists, who saw no alternative to Mr. Mazowiecki. By November, the Berlin Wall had fallen, and the division of Europe was over. In December 1990 Solidarity leader Lech Walesa became Poland's president. (RFE/RL)

Yanukovich predicts election victory

KYIV – Ukraine's main opposition leader, Viktor Yanukovich, who lost the country's 2004 Orange Revolution election, has said he would win the next presidential contest in January. Mr. Yanukovich, the Moscow-backed candidate in the 2004 election, has about 25 percent support in opinion polls over his main competitor, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, with about 15 percent. "We have faith in the wisdom of the Ukrainian nation and we will win. The question is only whether in the first round or the second," Mr. Yanukovich said at a news conference. President Viktor Yushchenko, who beat Mr. Yanukovich in a re-run vote in the aftermath of the 2004 mass protests, is far behind. "We think we will have a very good result in the first round – we could well win it," Mr. Yanukovich said. Mr. Yushchenko has virtually no chance of re-election in the January 17

contest, with support of 3-4 percent. (RFE/RL)

Gongadze remains identified in Ukraine

KYIV – Forensics experts in Ukraine have confirmed that the fragments of a human skull found last month in Kyiv Oblast are remains of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports. The skull fragments were found at a site shown to authorities by the former top official of the Ukrainian police, General Oleksiy Pukach, who was arrested on July 22 as a suspect in Gongadze's murder. Gongadze's decapitated body was found in Kyiv Oblast in November 2000. Valentina Telichenko – a lawyer for Gongadze's widow, Myroslava – told RFE/RL that additional DNA tests on the skull fragments would be performed abroad, most likely in the United States. (RFE/RL)

Lighthouse stirs Russia-Ukraine tension

MOSCOW – Russia has accused Kyiv of attempting to seize property belonging to its Black Sea Fleet in Ukraine, in a further sign of escalating tension between the ex-Soviet neighbors. Russia's Black Sea Fleet said it had barred Ukrainian court bailiffs as they tried to seize navigation equipment on August 27 at a lighthouse in Kherones, lying on the outskirts of the Ukrainian Crimean port city of Sevastopol, which has been home to the Russian fleet for more than two centuries. Russian television showed fleet servicemen in full combat gear with submachine guns at the ready forming a chain to guard the territory of the lighthouse. Bailiffs were shown

being handed over to Ukraine's police by the Russians. "The command of the Black Sea Fleet warns that the responsibility for possible tragic consequences of such incidents will rest entirely with those organizing such provocations," the fleet said in a statement posted on the Russian Defense Ministry's website mil.ru. It said only Russian laws were valid on the territory of Russian Black Sea Fleet facilities, despite it being in Ukraine. Ukrainian officials could not be immediately reached for comment. Officials in Kyiv had said earlier that despite the fact some facilities like lighthouses are under Russia's jurisdiction, Ukraine may claim its rights for them because they are deployed on lands that do not belong to Russia's military. The issue of Sevastopol and Russia's Black Sea Fleet deployed there is a painful irritant in the icy relations between former imperial master Moscow and Kyiv, which has been seeking closer ties with the West and NATO membership. In 1954 Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev gave Russia's Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine in a gesture of "brotherly love." The act had little beyond symbolic importance at the time as Russia and Ukraine formed part of the Soviet Union under Kremlin control. In line with a 20-year lease agreement between Moscow and Kyiv, the fleet will have to abandon its original base in Sevastopol in 2017. Ukrainian refusal to accept any extension has irked Moscow and pro-Russian locals staunchly oppose it. Moscow officials have said they hope the rental arrangement can be extended after the expiry of the current deal. (RFE/RL)

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Beware the Russian...

(Continued from page 6)

delegation to Yalta included one Alger Hiss, later proven to have been working for Soviet military intelligence within the U.S. State Department since 1935.

Additionally the venue was arranged so that there was no British or American intelligence to speak of. Stalin knew what points Churchill and Roosevelt would negotiate and graciously conceded on irrelevant issues, i.e. allowing some democratic individuals into the puppet Polish provisional government, since he could ensure their subsequent removal. Churchill and Roosevelt proved to be Yalta's "useful idiots."

Contemporary Russian aggression is not limited to rhetoric. For this reason, Mr. Medvedev's letter to Mr. Yushchenko should be viewed as a harbinger of further saber-rattling and even active aggression. Last year's Russian invasion of Georgia sent a chill throughout the neighborhood that was felt in the West. The ceasefire did little to alleviate the tension. Russian troops remain very much in Georgia despite Russia's agreement to vacate as part of a ceasefire.

Is the West prepared to respond to Russian aggression? To the contrary, some members of Congress have referred to the post-Soviet world situation as "an international disaster." Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) has urged that U.S. policy "be directed toward supporting Prime Minister [Vladimir] Putin's dream of eventually restoring Russian hegemony over Eastern Europe. A strong Soviet Union provided a counterbalancing force to offset U.S. imperialism."

Mr. Schumer has insisted that all U.S. weapons and personnel be withdrawn from Europe: "U.S. forces are inhibiting an organic resolution of intra-European relations... The Russians feel powerless and humiliated. The gains they won from defeating Hitler have been frittered away by weak leaders and American pressure. A withdrawal of our pressure would give Russia the confidence it needs to reassert itself in Eastern Europe – thereby, restoring the region to the status agreed upon at the historic Yalta Conference in 1945."

On the other hand President Barack Obama gently rebuked Russia for its lack of respect for the sovereignty of its neighbors during his July visit there: "State sovereignty must be the cornerstone of international order. Just as all states should have the right to choose their leaders, states must have the right to borders that are secure and to their own foreign policies. Any system that cedes those rights will lead to anarchy. That is why

this principle must apply to all nations, including Ukraine."

Vice-President Joseph Biden went further to provide assurances to Ukraine and subsequently to Georgia, underlining U.S. support for their sovereignty and NATO membership during his visit to both countries two weeks later: "As we reset the relationship with Russia, we reaffirm our commitment to an independent Ukraine. And we recognize no sphere of influence, or no ability of any other nation to veto the choices an independent nation makes as to with whom and under what conditions they will associate. We also do not believe in zero-sum thinking... a partnership with one nation must come at the expense of another. It has not. It does not, and it will not... sovereign states have a right to make their own decisions, to chart their own foreign policy, to choose their own alliances. President Obama, in his speech in Moscow two weeks ago, strongly affirmed this principle... We also re-affirmed the security assurances that the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom provided Ukraine in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum... The United States also supports Ukraine's deepening ties to NATO and to the European Union. ..."

Russia's Interfax reported recently that President Medvedev has introduced a bill in the Russian Parliament that would allow the country's armed forces to be used abroad "to rebuff or prevent an aggression against another state" or "protect Russian citizens abroad." Mr. Medvedev said the bill was linked to last year's war with Georgia over South Ossetia. Moscow said it was protecting Russian citizens in South Ossetia.

The bill will be debated by the Russian Duma in September before passage. However, given the standard of democracy in Russia and the composition of the Duma, there is little doubt about the outcome.

The question is not whether Russia will act on its rhetoric, but rather how forcefully and how expeditiously. What will be the reaction of the West? Sen. Schumer and the like in Congress may not be Hiss, but are "useful idiots" nonetheless.

Are President Obama and Vice-President Biden committed to democracy and freedom? What about our allies? Will principle prevail over historical appeasement?

Mr. Medvedev may not be Stalin, but he certainly has set off an alarm. His comments may be mendacious to the point of absurdity, annoying and intrusive; still Ukraine, its democratic neighbors and the West dare not dismiss them as raving. We have to be concerned.

COMMENTARY

The Tymoshenko-Putin Axis?

by Tammy Lynch

Ukraine announced yesterday that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will meet her Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin next month in Warsaw, Poland. The announcement came on the same day that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev brusquely denounced Ukraine's "leadership" during a press event with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Sochi. Mr. Medvedev also claimed that "normal relations" would not be possible until "new leadership" takes over in Ukraine.

Days earlier, Mr. Medvedev had released a harsh video blog criticizing everything from Ukraine's treatment of Russian speakers to its "resistance" toward Russian business to its gas deals with the EU.

Mr. Medvedev's remarks have created numerous questions. The Putin-Tymoshenko meeting could begin to provide some answers.

The video blog appears to be an attempt to undermine Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko in advance of the upcoming presidential election, while increasing support for "pro-Russian" candidate Viktor Yanukovich (and possibly others considered "pro-Kremlin"). However, Mr. Medvedev included harsh words for "Ukraine's political leaders" who "do deals with the European Union on supplying gas." The Russian president's use of the plural in his video blog, as well as an ambiguous reference to Ukraine's "leadership" during his recent press event, should not be overlooked.

In fact, it was Prime Minister Tymoshenko – not Mr. Yushchenko – who negotiated and signed the Joint EU-Ukraine Declaration on the Modernization of Ukraine's Gas Transit System. The Declaration provided for a framework to modernize Ukraine's transit pipelines in order to increase transit capacity for Russian gas to Europe. This has the potential to undermine competing transit pipelines planned by Russia that would bypass Ukraine and led to a loud, threatening – and effective – response

from Moscow.

So, is Mr. Medvedev's wording a sign that Moscow does not understand the diarchy of power in Ukraine? Or simply doesn't care? The Russian President clearly is proceeding as if there is one unified power center in Ukraine – and suggesting that Russia will oppose any one associated with that center.

Or, is Mr. Medvedev perhaps signaling that concessions will be necessary from Ms. Tymoshenko if Russia is to either back the prime minister in the election (assuming she wants this backing) or stay out of the election?

This last question, in particular, will undoubtedly come up at the Putin-Tymoshenko meeting on September 1 – a meeting which was initiated by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Putin have maintained a cordial, if sometimes strained, working relationship. In fact, Ms. Tymoshenko first began working with Mr. Putin while he was president; at that time, he clearly showed an understanding of the significant power held by the prime minister's position in Ukraine.

The implication by Mr. Tusk that a meeting between Mr. Putin and Ms. Tymoshenko may ease tensions is a significant repudiation of Mr. Medvedev's claim that "normal relations" with Ukraine are not possible. And the fact that both prime ministers have agreed to take part is more interesting.

Given Ms. Tymoshenko's strained relationship with Mr. Yushchenko, she is happy to appear statesmanlike and effective at his expense. But are Messrs. Medvedev and Putin working together? Will Ms. Tymoshenko meet the good cop in Warsaw? Or, is Mr. Medvedev attempting to use Ukraine as a demonstration of his own power? If so, will he be allowed to succeed?

Stay tuned...

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UIA takes delivery of its first Boeing 737-800 new generation aircraft

KYIV – Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) expanded its fleet on July 24 with a new Boeing 737-800 passenger airplane, delivered from the Boeing plant in Seattle.

The new aircraft is the first of four new Boeing 737-800 aircraft scheduled for delivery in the nearest future. The second one will arrive later in the autumn. Two more new aircraft are scheduled for delivery in early 2010 as a part of UIA's long-term program of fleet renewal and expansion.

This will be the first new-generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft on the Ukrainian register.

The aircraft's interior will offer a number of additional improvements, including an increased number of seats. The airline intends to use the new aircraft with up to 189 passenger seats on high-density routes including charter, popular leisure and high-load scheduled destinations allowing for more efficient fleet utilization.

The new generation -800 is equipped with the latest navigation equipment and CFM (56-7B26) engines that feature a number of technical improvements with lower fuel burn and increased reliability, making the aircraft more efficient, environmentally friendly and easier to maintain.

This and all future aircraft in the UIA fleet will come with "winglets," (extended raised wingtips) that are designed to improve the aerodynamic efficiency of the aircraft by reducing drag, allowing for fuel savings, and, consequently, lower carbon emissions.

"This latest version of the B737-800 is probably the most modern and reliable aircraft available today. Equipped with winglets and the latest engines, it is envi-

ronmentally friendly as it has lower carbon emissions. It is a 'greener' machine," said UIA President Yuri Miroshnikov. "We continue to upgrade our classic B737 fleet. The program to install winglets on the remaining B737-500s and -300s will be completed this coming winter. The winglets improve aerodynamics and reduce fuel burn, noise and emissions. We are committed to making UIA one of the most environmentally friendly airlines in Europe."

Ukraine International Airlines has been operating Boeing aircraft since its founding in 1992. Today its fleet consists of 18 modern Boeing 737 aircraft.

UIA has its own base for full technical and engineering maintenance of Boeing aircraft, which provides technical services not only to UIA aircraft but to those of other airlines.

Ukraine International Airlines is Ukraine's leading international carrier. Founded in 1992, UIA was one of the first businesses in Ukraine to attract foreign investment.

The airline connects Ukraine with nearly 3,000 world locations, operating about 350 scheduled flights a week to



The new Boeing 737-800 that is part of the fleet of Ukraine International Airlines.

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The base airport for UIA is Kyiv-Boryspil (KBP).

Kozak history...

(Continued from page 11)

with the production of the film "Between Hitler and Stalin." He has been the recipient of the City of Toronto Medal and the Shevchenko Medal.

A resident of Toronto since 1962, Mr. Gregorovich holds a degree in history from McMaster University and a Master's Degree in library and information studies from the University of Toronto.

"Cossack Bibliography" is available from Ukrainian bookstores or directly from the author. Readers may obtain copies by writing to: A. Gregorovich, 195 Martin Grove Rd., Toronto, Ontario, M9B 4L2.

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The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Located at www.ukrweekly.com, the special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983. The section is completely searchable.



Olvin Vladyka



Pavlo Lopata

ATTENTION ARTISTS

by Oksana Trytjak, UNA National Organizer

It does seem a little early to be thinking about Christmas cards, when we are just entering the glorious summer season and just experienced a very successful 3rd Annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka. But the Ukrainian National Association is already preparing for the next Christmas card project. As you well know this project is multifaceted- it encourages and popularizes Ukrainian artists, the proceeds are allocated to support the renaissance of Soyuzivka, and last but not least it promotes and recognizes the spirit of Christmas and goodwill. In the past few years the community has been very supportive and this UNA project has received funds averaging \$40,000 a year that have been allocated to Soyuzivka and its rebirth, specific donations to Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly and the UNF foundation. UNA will continue this project as long as we are fortunate enough to have artists participate and the community share in supporting the project.

We encourage and invite Ukrainian artists to join in this year's UNA Christmas Card Project. Over the years, UNA was very pleased to have had very many talented Ukrainian artists participate such as: Jaroslav Adamovych, Anatoli Balukh, Krystyna Baransky - Nana, Bohdan Borzemsky, Anatolij Burtovyy, Marta Cisyk, Mykhajlo Dmytrenko, Tatianna Gajecy, Maria Harasowska-Daczyszyn, Jacques Hnizdovsky, Petro Holovatyj, John Jaciw, Natalia Josypchuk, Oleksander Kaniuka, Andriy Khomyk, Moki Kokoris, Danylo Koshtyra, Natalia Kovalenko, George Kozak, Yarema Kozak, Zenowia Kulynych, Zoya Lisowska, Pavlo Lopata, Oksana Lukaszewycz-Polon, Vitaliy Lytvyn, Andriy Maday, Roman Markovych, Marta Anna Shramenko-Rondazzo, Luba Maksymchuk, Liudmyla Mosijchuk, Leo Mol, Natalka, Chrystyna Nykorak, Lydia Palij, Rev. Serhij Pastukhiv, Aka Pereyma, Lidia Piaseckyj, Orest Poliszczuk, Myron Ryzhula, Christina Saj, Martha Savchak, Ilona Shyjiuk, Ivan Skolozdra, Roman Smetaniuk, Christine Sobol Jaroslav Stadnyk, Olena Stasiuk, Youlia Tkatchouk, Yuriy Trytjak, Irene Twerdochlib, Halyna Tytla, Markijan Vitruk, Yuriy, Viktiuk, Olvin Vladyka.

This year, again, the UNA will be publishing approximately 150,000 cards. We encourage artists to submit their works. The theme of the art should be Ukrainian Christmas in diversified genres; oil, watercolor, tempera, computer graphics, gouache, woodcuts, mixed media or others. Please participate and submit either a slide, photo, original work or forward copy of art by e-mail that can be reproduced by September 30, 2009 to:

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Shukhevych...

(Continued from page 9)

German concerns over a possible revolution planned by Bandera's followers were reflected in various reports of the German security services. A report dated January 16, 1942, for example, states that on the basis of information provided by "the arrested followers of Bandera no definite date for an outbreak of the planned revolution has been named. The signal for the uprising should be given by Bandera whose release the OUN is hoping for."²⁰ Of course, that signal could not come because Bandera remained in the concentration camp until October 1944. After his release Bandera had a conversation with Obergruppenführer Gottlob Berger on October 6, 1944, during which the Ukrainian leader expressed great hopes for the success of the Ukrainian resistance movement. Berger summed up his impression of Bandera, noting that "he is dedicated to his idea to the very end" and that "he hates the Russians as much as the Germans."²¹ It is worth noting that in the German security service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD) report of January-March 1942 the OUN(B) is already characterized as the most active and dangerous.²² Generally speaking, beginning in the spring of 1942, there is a significant increase in the number of reports about the activities of the OUN, which is characterized as a dangerous resistance movement.²³ Also intriguing is an SD report dated July 31, 1942, which quotes an article from issue no. 4 of the OUN(B)'s illegal publication Bulletin. "The year 1941," the article states, "brought us change: one totalitarianism disappeared [and] a second took its place... In their basic objectives both are similar, only tactics separate them."²⁴

A lengthy report on the "National-

Ukrainian resistance movement UPA," dated November 1, 1944, makes for fascinating reading. The document was prepared for Fremde Heere Ost (German Intelligence Evaluation Service, Eastern Section) by Colonel Reinhard Gehlen. The document states that "the objective of the OUN is to create an independent national Great-Ukraine [Grossukraine]".²⁵ The author also explains that "as the relations between Germans and Ukrainians gradually worsened, the OUN took a position of hostility not only against the Poles and Bolshevism, but also against the German administration. By this time the organization's fight was directed against the Germans, Soviets, and Poles. After repeated occupation of Ukraine by the RA [Red Army] she [UPA] is fighting exclusively against the Soviets..."²⁶

These sources provide far better evidence concerning the real objective, as well as the relationship between the OUN leadership and the German authorities, than rehearsed Soviet propaganda.

Since the Russian Ambassador to the UN wildly ascribes the murder of Jews in Babyn Yar to Ukrainian nationalists, in order to provide true and accurate information I shall simply quote the findings of the Nuremberg Trials. The report on Kyiv states: "Consequently all Jews of Kiev [sic] were requested, in agreement with the city commander, to appear on Monday, September 29 by 8 o'clock at a designated place. These announcements were posted by members of the militia of Kiev in the entire city. Simultaneously it was announced orally that all Jews were to be removed. In collaboration with the group [Gruppen] staff and 2 Kommandos of the police regiment South, the Sonderkommando 4a executed on September 29-30, 33,771 Jews."²⁷ The account clearly indicates who committed this horrendous crime in Kyiv.

20 See Tätigkeit der OUN, Bundesarchiv R 58/220, Ereignismeldung UdSSR Nr. 156, January 1942, pp. 193-94. One can find additional reports about the anti-German activities of Bandera Section 0s followers, i.e., the OUN(B), in Ereignismeldung UdSSR, Nr. 52, 56, 66, 78, and others.

21 Besprechung mit Bandera, Bundesarchiv, NS 19/1513, fol. 1.

22 Bundesarchiv, Koblenz, SD Reports 70/31, p. 31. See also Tätigkeits- und Lagebericht Nr. 8 der Einsatzgruppen der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD in der UdSSR, p. 132.

23 The National Archives of the United States, T 175/16/ 2519868-2519872; Meldungen aus

den besetzten Ostgebieten Nr. 4 Widerstandsbewegung in der Ukraine, a) Bandera-Bewegung.

24 Meldungen aus den besetzten Ostgebieten, No. 14. T 175/17/ 2520097, p. 5.

25 The National Archives of the United States, T 78/562, Die national-ukrainische Widerstandsbewegung UPA, Stand: 1. Nov. 1944, p. 2.

26 Ibid., p.3.

27 Trials of War Criminals before the Nuernberg Military Tribunals under Control Council Law No. 10, Nuernberg, October 1946-April 1949, p. 148.

A collection...

(Continued from page 11)

of 1959, whose amazing story, "Greater Love Hath No Man," is described in this book by Col. Abrahamson.

Two senior retired generals of the class of 1959, Gen. Fredrick M. Franks, Jr., and Lt. Gen. Thomas L. McInerney, U.S. Air Force, write about leadership and coordination challenges at both higher and lower levels of command in major combat operations. Gen. Fred Franks commanded the U.S. VII Corps during "Desert Storm" in 1991 and Tom McInerney ran the strike on Libya in 1986.

Retired Maj. Gen. John Grinalds, U.S. Marine Corps, and retired Gen. William

Mullen, U.S. Army, recount leadership and heroism of marines and soldiers in close combat in Vietnam. Retired Army Cols. Alan Phillips, Donald Reinhardt, and Barrett Haight discuss failures of leadership and logistic challenges. To round out the spectrum of experiences, retired Army Lt. Cols. Nathaniel Colby and William Schwartz, and Maj. James Carr talk about mentoring, loyalty and building high-performance units.

The introduction to this interesting small book was written by retired Brig. Gen. Peter M. Dawkins, a Heisman Trophy winner and president of the class of 1959, who offers this book to the class of 2009 in the spirit of honest reflections on true leadership as they join the "Long Grey Line."

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"What's past is prologue."

– William Shakespeare
(carved on the National
Archives Building
in Washington, D.C.)

1933



2009

Take a look at the past:

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- Peruse our special issues section, including The Weekly's inaugural issue of October 6, 1933.
- Enjoy our "Year in Review" issues published annually since 1976.
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Liudy Dobri of Lviv to entertain at Toronto festival in September

TORONTO – Ivanka Podilchak, entertainment manager for the 13th annual Ukrainian Festival in the Bloor West Village, announced that Lviv street busker band Liudy Dobri will liven up the streets from Jane to Runnymede with its unique sound.

The six-member ensemble consists of Markian Turkanyk of Ternopil, Volodymyr Bedzvin of Poltava, Yuri Rafaliuk of Khmelnytskyi, Stanislav Kyryllov and Rostyslav Mykhaliuno of Lviv and Toronto's own Mark Ihnatowycz.

Liudy Dobri (which translates as Good Folk or Good People) is a band that collects and interprets folk music from

across Ukraine. The band's geographic roots are as diverse as the musical backgrounds it draws upon (classical, punk, Balkan folk, Ukrainian folk, etc.). Liudy Dobri seeks to re-envision traditional Ukrainian folk music, unearthing fading forms and reformatting well-known classics, infusing them with a youthful energy that takes listeners through contained-chaotic-bliss to the heart of the band's instinct-driven Ukrainian-ness.

For more information about Liudy Dobri readers may log on to www.myspace.com/liudydobriukrfolk, write to info@ukrainianfestival.com or call and leave a message at 416-410-9965.



Liudy Dobri, a band from Lviv, will perform at Toronto's Ukrainian Festival in the Bloor West Village.

Ukrainian soprano Shafajinskaia to perform at Destination: Opera!

NEWARK, N.J. – The New Jersey State Opera (NJSO), one of New Jersey's top opera companies and a pioneer in opera education, will hold its second annual Destination: Opera! festival at The Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, N.J., on September 11-13.

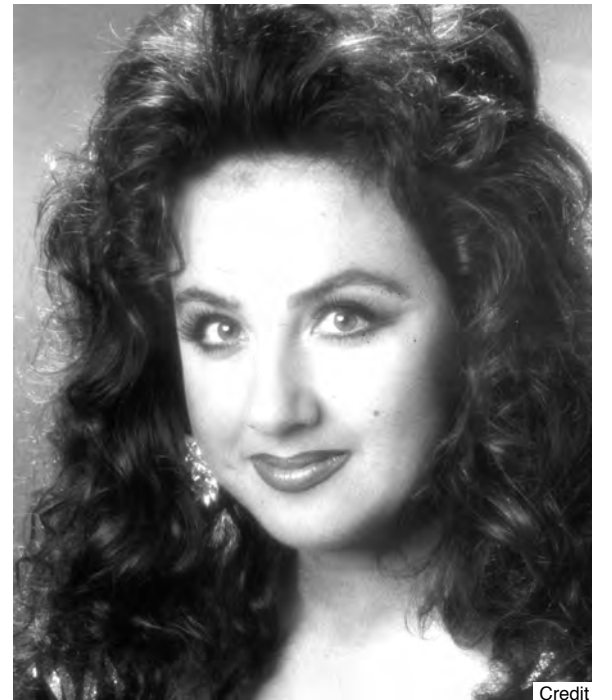
This year, the NJSO will present Giuseppe Verdi's "Requiem," featuring world-renowned Ukrainian soprano Anna Shafajinskaia. This will be the second time the NJSO will feature a Ukrainian artist. The first was in 2008, when Nataliya Tymchenko sang in the inaugural presentation of Destination: Opera!

A native of Odesa, Ukraine, Ms. Shafajinskaia, is a graduate of the Gnesin Academy in Moscow. She is a dramatic soprano whose voice has been described as "huge, lustrous and creamy." She has performed in Liege, Belgium; London; Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Oslo, Norway; Durban, South Africa; New Orleans; and New York. She won the 1997 Pavarotti Competition in Philadelphia and was personally chosen by Mr. Pavarotti to sing opposite him in Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca."

Her performance in Ocean Grove as the soprano solo in "Requiem" will undoubtedly prove to be a memorable one.

In addition to presenting "Requiem" on September 12, the NJSO has scheduled opening festivities for September 11 and a performance of Giovanni Pergolesi's "La Serva Padrona" on September 13.

The NJSO, in line with its mission of "bringing full-scale grand opera to the citizens of New Jersey," has also sched-



Anna Shafajinskaia will perform in Verdi's "Requiem" at the New Jersey State Opera's Destination: Opera! festival.

uled a full season of operas and concerts, as well as an educational program for primary and secondary schools, called Opera Ovations.

Readers may learn more about The New Jersey State Opera and its current season by visiting the NJSO website at www.njstateopera.org.

For more information on Destination: Opera!, readers may contact the New Jersey State Opera by calling (973) 623-5757; the NJSO's vice-president of education, Anya Laszok Mulhauser, 908-581-6766; or visit the festival website at www.destinationopera.com.

Readers may purchase tickets to the festival by calling 1-800-965-9324; in person at the Great Auditorium box office in Ocean Grove; or online at <http://www.destinationopera.com/tickets.html>. Tickets range from \$10 to \$45.

Rada overrides...

(Continued from page 1)

tion precincts at prisons and hospitals, led by election commissioners not employed at those respective institutions, opening the window to abuses and falsifications, she said.

As an example of another nuance, the law creates small, medium and large local election commissions without detail, creating conditions in which the various presidential candidates won't have equal quotas in leading election commissions, she said.

At any moment, the majority of election commissioners, or those present, could dismiss its chair, assistant or secretary, which Ms. Stavniichuk characterized as the "starting point for future election

falsifications."

Most Ukrainian political observers, including the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, joined the Presidential Secretariat in rejecting the new election law.

Former CEC Chair Yaroslav Davydovych said the law is unconstitutional, particularly in forbidding representatives of civic organizations from monitoring elections and invalidating vote protocols not signed by all members of an election commission.

Furthermore, local and district voting protocols can't be appealed, in violation of the Constitution.

Mr. Davydovych said he was concerned the leading presidential candidates and their respective parties would ignore a Constitutional Court ruling rejecting the new election law.

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UOL elects new...

(Continued from page 4)

Pittsburgh conducted the first workshop about iconography and its meaning in the life of every Orthodox Christian, calling all to "Theosis" – becoming one with the divinity of God, following the example of the saints depicted in the iconography of the Church.

In the second workshop, the "Road to the Priesthood" was discussed under the auspices of the UOL's Vocations and Clergy Support Commission. All the clergy and hierarchs present related their personal journeys from youth to ordination, providing a great deal of inspiration to all who heard.

On Saturday evening, the grand banquet and ball took place. The traditional awards were presented, as the final official acts by the Junior and Senior UOL presidents, who announced the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt (LSSK) and Seminarian Scholarship winners.

The Protosprebyter Stephen Hallick-Holutiak Senior Orthodox of the Year Award was presented to Michelle Kapeluck of Carnegie, Pa. The Senior Chapter of the Year Award went to St. Vladimir Chapter of Ambridge, Pa. The Rev. Volodymyr Bukata Junior Orthodox of the Year Award went to Joshua Bourgerie of Woonsocket, R.I., and the Junior Chapter of the Year Award was presented to St. Mary Protectress

(Pokrova) Chapter of Southfield, Mich.

Seminarians present to receive scholarships from the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund were: Subdeacon Vasyl Pasakas, Andriy Matlak and Vasyl Dovhan of St. Sophia Seminary. Also awarded seminarian scholarships were Ivan Kostyshyn and Borislav Kroner of St. Sophia Seminary; Ivan Synevsky of Holy Cross Seminary in Boston; and the Rev. Harry Linzinbigler of Dover, Fla., who is studying for his doctoral degree.

The Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Memorial Scholarships were presented to Zachary Kapeluck of Carnegie, Pa., and Ariana Rock of New Castle, Pa. Also awarded an LSSK Scholarship was Michael Nemeth of Philadelphia.

The convention concluded on Sunday morning at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Youngstown. Divine liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel, assisted by parish pastor, the Rev. Harvey, as well as Protosprebyter William Diakiw, the Very Rev. Oleh Hucul, the Rev. Perkins, the Rev. Protodeacon Mahlay and Subdeacons Joseph Novicky, John Charest, John Meschisen, Vasyl Pasakas and newly ordained Joseph Garant, who was ordained prior to the start of divine liturgy.

A farewell luncheon followed in the parish social center. The delegates and guests of the convention expressed their sincere gratitude to their hosts – the Junior and Senior UOL chapters of the parish.



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For excerpts, please visit www.andrewmelnyk.com
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OUT AND ABOUT

September 5-6 Kerhonkson, NY	Swim meet, Ukrainian Sports Federation of U.S.A. and Canada, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 908-851-0617	September 19 Parma, OH	Ukrainian Festival, dedication of Parma's Ukrainian Village, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 440-888-8761
September 6 San Diego, CA	Ukrainian Festival, House of Ukraine, Balboa Park, housandiego@aol.com	September 19-20 Silver Spring, MD	Ukrainian Festival, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, standrewuoc.org
September 12 Ottawa	26th annual golf tournament, Ottawa Ukrainian Golf Association, The Meadows Golf and Country Club, 913-834-9935 or 613-599-5310	September 20 Jamaica Plain, MA	German themed picnic, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, www.ukrainianorthodox.org/st.andrew
September 12 New Britain, CT	Family Day, featuring accordionist Mike Platosz, Department of Parks and Recreation, Walnut Hill Park, www.new-britain.net/liv-prksnrec.html	September 26 Chicago	Uketoberfest, St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral hall, klopitband@yahoo.com
September 12-13 Baltimore, MD	Ukrainian Festival, Patterson Park, 410-967-0501	September 26 Syracuse, NY	Annual pig roast, Ukrainian National Home, 315-478-9272
September 12-13 Chicago	Ukrainian Village Festival, Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, 312-829-5209	September 26 through November 14 New York	Embroidery workshop, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
September 13 Dedham, MA	Pig roast and barbecue, Ukrainian American Educational Center of Boston, skostecki108@comcast.net	September 27 Alexandria, VA	Concert, featuring harpist Odarka Polanskyj Stockert, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, The Lyceum, 301-299-2615 or 703-838-4994
September 13 Passaic, NJ	Parish picnic, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-473-7197	October 3 Philadelphia	Table wars - beer pong and billiards, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-684-3548
September 13 Stamford, CT	Ukrainian Day Festival, Connecticut State Ukrainian Day Committee, St. Basil Seminary, 860-568-5445 or 203-269-5909	October 3-4 Lehighton, PA	Battle of Konotop re-enactment, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621
September 13 through October 25 Chicago	Art exhibit, featuring works by Wasil Kacurovsky and Alexandra Kowerko, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773- 227-5522	<i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i>	
September 18-20 Toronto	Ukrainian festival in the Bloor West Village, 416-410-9965		
September 19 New York	Diaspora forum, "Welcome to Ukrainian New York," Ukrainian Institute of America,		

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

August 27-30 Church of
Annunciation Weekend

September 18-19 Wedding week-
end

August 31-September 7 Labor Day
week
Weekend entertainment to be
announced

September 25-27 Wedding week-
end

September 28-30 Mittenwald
Reunion

September 11-13 Salzburg Reunion

September 14-17 Berchtesgaden,
Karsfeld, Landshut, Regensburg,
Bayreuth Reunions



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
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- "Malanka" in January.
- Deb in February.
- Two Easters in springtime.
- "Zlet" and "Sviato Vesny" in May.
- Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Cultural Festival in July.
- "Uke Week" at Wildwood in August.
- Back to Ukrainian school in September.
- "Morskyi Bal" in New Jersey in November.
- "Koliada" in December.
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 9

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John's Ukrainian
Preschool will re-open its Ukrainian-
language Montessori sessions each week-
day morning from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Extended hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. are
available to serve working parents.
Children must be the age of 2 years, 6
months by September in order to be
enrolled. The school emphasizes respect
for the child, individualized learning and
promotion of the child's independence.
For information call Olenka Makarushka-
Kolodiy, 973-763-1797.

Saturday, September 12

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Ukrainian
Heritage School at the Ukrainian
Educational and Cultural Center will begin
the school year with opening ceremonies
at 9 a.m. Afterwards, classes will be held
until dismissal at 1:30 p.m. Parents of new
students may register their children for
kindergarten through the 12th grade, as
well as classes for English-speaking stu-
dents. Books may be purchased on the

same day. For further information, includ-
ing registration forms and grade-level
book lists, visit the school's new website,
www.ukrainianheritageschool.org.

Sunday, September 13

STAMFORD, Conn.: The 42nd Ukrainian
Day Festival at St. Basil's Seminary, spon-
sored by the Connecticut State Ukrainian
Day Committee, will begin at 9 a.m. with
over 15 Ukrainian vendors, and coffee and
donuts; priests will be available for con-
fessions before liturgy. At 11 a.m. liturgy
will be celebrated by Bishop Paul
Chomnycky, eparch of Stamford.
Afterwards there will be Ukrainian and
picnic food and refreshments. The pro-
gram begins at 2:45 p.m. (performers will
be publicized at a later date). There will be
a moonwalk and games for children.
Admission for all age 12 and over: \$5 per
person when purchased in advance; \$10 at
the gate. For tickets call 860-568-5445.
There is free parking. For more informa-
tion, or to volunteer to help, call
203-269-5909.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a
service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the
Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English,
written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type
of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved,
and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional
information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions
are subject to editing.

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com or Preview of Events,
The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax,
973-644-9510. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments;
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**MINUTES OF THE
36th REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE
THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Inc.
AT SOYUZIVKA, Kerhonkson, N.Y.
Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29, 2006**

**ПРОТОКОЛ
36-ої ЗВИЧАЙНОЇ КОНВЕНЦІЇ
УКРАЇНСЬКОГО НАРОДНОГО СОЮЗУ
ЯКА ВІДБУЛАСЯ НА ОСЕЛІ
СОЮЗІВКА, Кергонксон, Нью Йорк
Від п'ятниці 26-го до понеділка 29-го травня, 2006 р.**

The 36th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association took place in Kerhonkson, New York at Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Estate, on Friday, May 26 to Monday, May 29, 2006.

The opening ceremonies of the Convention took place in front of the Taras Shevchenko monument at 10 a.m., which included introductions from master of ceremonies Roman Hawryluk, a member of the Soyuzivka Convention Committee, Luba Yablonska, wearing a Ukrainian folk costume, greeted the delegates with the traditional bread and salt, followed by a brief address by Stefan Kaczaraj, president of the UNA.

A flag-raising ceremony which included flag bearers Matthew Koziak, with the Ukrainian flag, Myron Groch, the Canadian flag and Vasyl Luchkiw, the flag of the United States, and the singing of the respective national anthems led by Swiatoslawa Kaczaraj.

Martha Lysko, Christine E. Kozak, Roma Lisovich and Gloria Horbaty, who are members of the General Assembly, placed a wreath on the bust of Rev. Hryhoriy Hrushka, founder of UNA.

The General Assembly of the Ukrainian National Association 2002-2006

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AGENDA

of the 36th REGULAR Convention of the UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Inc. held in Kerhonkson, N.Y. at SOYUZIVKA, Friday, May 26 through Monday 29, 2006

1. Opening of Convention
2. Report of Credentials Committee
3. Acceptance of Convention Program
4. Approval of Minutes of the 35th Convention

5. Election:
 - a. Convention chairperson, two vice-chairpersons
 - b. 11-member Election Committee
 - c. 5-member Committee of Petitions
 - d. 6-member Secretaries Committee
6. Appointment of Press Committee, Resolutions Committee and two sergeants-at-arms
7. Reports of Executive Committee:
 - President, Stefan Kaczaraj
 - First Vice-President, Martha Lysko
 - Second Vice-President, Eugene Iwanciw (deceased)
 - Director for Canada, Al Kachkowski
 - National Secretary, Christine E. Kozak
 - Treasurer, Roma Lisovich
8. Reports of the Auditing Committee members:
 - Zenon Holubec
 - Alexander Serafyn
 - Yaroslav Zaviysky
9. Reports of Advisors:

Eugene Oscislawski	Wasył Liscenesky
Joseph Hawryluk (resigned)	Pawlo Prinko
Stefan Hawrysz	Andrij Skyba
Vasyl Luchkiw	Michael Kuropas
Myron Pylypiak	Myron Groch
Barbara Bachynsky (resigned)	Gloria Horbaty
10. Report of Svoboda Editor-in-Chief, Irene Jarosewich
11. Report of The Ukrainian Weekly Editor-in-Chief, Roma Hadzewycz
12. Discussion on reports and their acceptance
13. Report of By-Laws Committee, discussion and approval of proposed changes
14. Discussion: "Development plans for Soyuzivka"
15. Discussion: "Status of the UNA in Canada"
16. Discussion: "UNA-Shaping the Future"
17. Report of Financial Committee and determination on bonding and salaries of officers
18. Election of General Assembly
19. Report of Petitions Committee, discussion and resolutions
20. Report of Secretaries Committee, discussion and resolutions
21. Resolutions and recommendations for the well-being of the organization
22. Miscellaneous
23. Adjournment

Friday, May 26, 2006, morning session 10:30 a. m.

1. OPENING OF THE CONVENTION

The first session took place in the Veselka hall, with opening remarks by Stefan Kaczaraj, president of the Ukrainian National Association, "Honored delegates, members of the General Assembly, guests and members of the UNA. Allow me here in this auditorium of our own Soyuzivka, once more to greet all of you at the start of the 36th Regular Convention of the UNA and express my hopes and the hopes of the Executive Committee about that, which has brought all of us here – sincere wishes and beliefs to openly and responsibly discuss our most acute problems. We believe that jointly these concerns can be solved successfully. Therefore I call on all present in this auditorium, in the course of this convention to feel as a closely knit family that is devoted to our common goal of unity, because it is the essence with which the convention will enter as a wise and transparent page into our 112th year history. Unity and collegiality were always cornerstones in the leadership of fraternal insurance associations and as 112 years ago our distinguished and unforgettable activist and founder of Svoboda, and the Ukrainian National Association, the Rev. Hryhoriy Hrushka, wrote: 'One person cannot help all, but all can help one person.' And therefore, today, I have the hope to receive your sincere assistance."

"In the history of our organization, every convention was obliged to introduce important changes demanded by new times and dictated by new conditions that are indispensable and necessary for the good of the Ukrainian National Association and its future. Therefore, we also will be obligated to make decisions about what changes are necessary and binding. Each one of our conventions was able to give the answers, perplexing to our questions: 'where are we today?' 'What powers do we possess and how do we utilize them in the future most effectively?' Likewise, we should not lose sight of our vision from what is reality and from all its successful and problematic aspects."

"We have commenced important initiatives and hope you will allow us to continue. I thank you, our members, for the trust that was bestowed on me personally, on the executive officers of the organization, and assure you that my esteemed colleagues and I are sentient of the awesome responsibility that we carry for this 112 year organization."

"As the torchbearers of UNA's founding fathers, those brave Ukrainian American pioneers, who had the vision, courage and determination to unify all Ukrainian immigrants into one body, we remain steadfast in our determination to carry on the work that they so admirably carried on a century ago. We think the mission remains an important one and the role of the UNA remains as vital today as it was in 1894."

Before us is a lot of work and important tasks. We ask God to help us so that with joint effort and a common belief, our work may be brought to fruition and our problems be successfully solved.

The success of our conventions, regardless where it is held, depends mainly on the local convention committee, which consists of members of the UNA community.

Therefore in the name of the General Assembly of the UNA, and you, honored delegates, allow me to express our sincere thanks to the head of the Convention Committee, Oksana Trytjak, and to all members of the Convention Committee for their efforts to make the convention successful. May it leave in us pleasant memories lasting many, many years.

Let us remember that it is the first time in the history of the UNA that the convention is taking place in "our Karpaty" (in the Catskills), our piece of Ukrainian soil in America. Perhaps this will set an example to other organizations to come here to Soyuzivka to have their conventions. With our example, we can show our Ukrainian community and perhaps other non-Ukrainian communities that this is a place where you could enjoy yourself.

Our manager, Nestor Paslawsky has put in a lot of effort to give it such a great beginning.

President Stefan Kaczaraj, invited the Rev. Deacon Myron Kotch to conduct the opening prayer.

The Rev. Deacon Myron Kotch, (Branch 39), a delegate from Syracuse, N.Y., led the Convention delegates in prayer. As it still was the Easter season, according to the Julian calendar, the Rev. Deacon Kotch began the prayer by inviting all participants to sing the Easter Canon of "Chrystos Voskres" (Christ is Risen) followed by a prayer:

"Almighty Lord, who blessed our forefathers on the day of George Washington, to start this beautiful organization, this past hundred years, Lord, continue to bless our Ukrainian National Association. Bless the new membership, bless that the candidates do good work and dedicate themselves for the benefit of this organization. Amen."

Stefan Kaczaraj, president, thanked the Rev. Kotch and continued speaking by mentioning those members of the UNA who passed away since the last convention; those who built this organization and provided leadership. A moment of silence was observed.

EXECUTIVES

Ivan Teluk, Supreme Vice-President – July 2002
 Joseph Lesawyer, Supreme President – January 2006
 Eugene Iwanciw, Second Vice-President – February 2006
 Genevieve Zerebniak, Supreme Vice Presidentess – February 2006

AUDITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Wasył Didiuk September 2003
 William Pastuszek July 2004

ADVISORS

Anna Haras March 2003
 Helen Olek Scott July 2004
 Barbara Bachynsky May 2005
 Tekla Moroz December 2005

BRANCH SECRETARIES

<u>2002</u>		<u>2004</u>	
Eustasia Milanytch	Br. 450	Alex Skibickyj	Br. 285
Betty Pankiw	Br. 237	Olga Liteplo	Br. 361
Yaroslav Kryshталowych	Br. 222	Walter Ficyk	Br. 380
Michael Kihiczak	Br. 496	Walter Warshona	Br. 266
Wolodymyr Zacerkowny	Br. 439	Petro Tymkiw	Br. 458
Stefania Fedyk	Br. 292		
Bohdan Piszak	Br. 88-477	<u>2005</u>	
John Pyndus	Br. 39	Maria Kulczycky	Br. 8
John Babyn	Br. 168	George Hawryshkiw	Br. 283
George Yurkiw	Br. 130	Vasyl Osadchuk	Br. 172
		<u>2006</u>	
<u>2003</u>		Roman Forostyna	Br. 293
Michael Turko	Br. 63		
Bohdan Semkiw	Br. 240		
Mychailo Spontak	Br. 204		
Stephan Kolodrub	Br. 137		
Maria Haluszczak	Br. 70		
John Gawaluch	Br. 381		

In accordance with the UNA By-Laws the Executive Committee appointed the following delegates to the following Committees: the By-Laws, Credentials (Verification) and Financial Committees.

By-Laws Committee:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Longin Staruch (Br. 172), chairman | Albany District |
| 2. Bohdan Doboszczak (Br. 59) | Connecticut District |
| 3. Oksana Lopatynska (Br. 194) | New York District |
| 4. Nicholas Bobeczko (Br. 102) | Cleveland District |
| 5. Alexander Kizak (Br. 465) | Montreal, Canada District |

Credentials Committee:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Myron Kuzio, (Br. 277) chairman, | Connecticut District |
| 2. Stephanie Hawryluk (Br. 88) | Albany District |
| 3. Anna Slobodian (Br. 88) | Albany District |
| 4. Paul Fuga (Br. 269) | Central New Jersey District |
| 5. Julian Kotlar (Br. 42) | No. Jersey District |

Financial Committee:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Wolodymyr Kozicky (Br. 8) | New York District |
| 2. Gerald Tysiak (Br. 13) | Albany District |
| 3. Michael Hrycyk (Br. 161) | Pittsburgh District |
| 4. Gloria Paschen (Br. 125/220) | Chicago District |
| 5. Joseph Chabon (Br. 242) | Shamokin District |

2. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Members: Julian Kotlar (Br. 42), Stephanie Hawryluk (Br. 88), Anna Slobodian (Br. 88), Paul Fuga (Br. 269), Myron Kuzio (Br. 277).

Myron Kuzio, (Br. 277), chairman of the Credentials Committee, presented their report. Upon review, all applications of the delegates and alternates to the 36th Convention of the UNA, all credentials conformed to the UNA By-Laws; there are 17 members of the General Assembly, 84 delegates, two alternates; one delegate would not be voting at the present time.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONVENTION PROGRAM

Stefan Kaczaraj, president presented the agenda to the delegates for approval. The agenda had been previously approved by the Executive Committee.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), made a motion to accept the agenda as proposed. It was seconded by Gerald Tysiak (Br. 13).

Andrij Skyba, (Br. 399), advisor, commented that it was a good agenda. He had questions about the time frame, especially elections whether they would take place on Sunday or Monday. The answer was Monday morning.

The agenda was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 35th CONVENTION

Stefan Kaczaraj, president asked Christine E. Kozak, national secretary to elaborate on this matter. She stated that the minutes were included in every delegate's pack, which was received at registration, and apologized that the minutes were late. She stated that the present convention's minutes would be available to the delegates in six months.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), motioned to accept the minutes as received.

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76), seconded the motion.

Motion passed with one abstention.

5. ELECTION

- Convention chairperson, two vice-chairpersons
- 11-member Election Committee
- 5-member Committee of Petitions
- 6-member Secretaries Committee

5a – Convention Chairperson, 2 vice-chairpersons

Stefan Kaczaraj, president, proceeded to ask for Convention chairperson, and two vice-chairperson nominations. Olga Maruszczak, (Br. 82) nominated Taras Szmagala, Sr. Br. 358 (Honorary Member) for chairperson, and Vasyl Kolodchin, (Br. 94) and Michael Sawkiw, (Br. 57/16) for vice chairpersons.

Stefanie Hawryluk, (Br. 88), seconded the motion.

Vasyl Luchkiw, (Br. 16), advisor, moved to close nominations, seconded by Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20).

The motion passed unanimously.

Taras Szmagala, Sr. chairman of the convention, assumed the chairmanship of the convention and addressed the convention, saying he was honored and humbled to accept the position. He asked for cooperation and understanding. He said that the convention was the most powerful body in the organization to conduct the association's business and reminded the delegates that under the UNA By-Laws, they serve as delegates for four years. Although it seldom happens, they can be called to vote on business during the four-year term, even if it occurs after the convention; he hoped that it would not be necessary. He pledged not to waver from these rules during the convention and that he would try to give everyone a chance to express their opinion, as long as it was done as expeditiously as possible and within the rules. He said that he would use English and if there were a need for it, translations would be available. Since the convention is being recorded, it would be necessary for speakers to state their name and Branch number in either language.

First order of business for the chairman was the introduction and appointment of Andrij Szul as parliamentarian, a prominent judge, well versed in UNA By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Order, which govern the convention.

6. APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESS COMMITTEE, RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AND TWO SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS

Press committee:

Zenon Wasylkewycz, (Br. 174), Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Omelan Twardowsky, (Br. 214/353), Vera Krywyj, (Br. 174).

Taras Szmagala, Sr., chairman of the convention, called for nominations to the 11-member.

5b – 11-Member Election Committee

Elections Committee:

- Martha Lysko, First vice-president nominated Christine Brodyn, (Br. 27)
- Ulana Prociuk, (Br. 397) nominated Bohdan Odezynskyj (Br. 216)
- Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340) nominated Nadia Salabay. (Br.155)
Roma Hadzewycz nominated Michael Koziupa. (Br. 76) who declined
Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25) nominated Maya Lew, (Br. 5) who declined
Roman Kuropas, (20) nominated Olga Maruszczak, (Br. 82) who declined
Roman Kuropas, (20) nominated Nicholas Fil, (Br. 13) who declined
- Myron Groch, advisor, (Br. 461), nominated Ihor Kobil, (Br. 412/498)
Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381) nominated Barbara Krupa, (Br. 325/226) who declined
Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25) nominated Slava Komichak, (Br. 96) who declined
Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399) nominated Gloria Paschen, (Br. 125/220) who declined
- Vera Plawuszczak, (Br. 432) nominated Cecilia Kachkowski, (Br. 444)
- Christine E. Kozak, National Secretary nominated Bohdan Doboszczak, (Br. 59)
- Gerald Tysiak, (Br. 13) nominated Stefan Lysiak, (Br. 283/355)
- Andrij Skyba, advisor, (Br. 399) nominated Oksana Koziak, (Br. 47)

At this point, Taras Szmagala Sr., closed nominations. Nicholas Fil raised a question whether a member of the Elections Committee could run for office. The answer was "no." Consequently, Nicholas Fil, Michael Koziupa and Maya Lew declined to serve.

In order to complete the nominations to the Elections Committee the following were nominated:

- Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25) nominated Oksana Lew, (Br. 5), and Michael Sawkiw

(Br. 57) nominated Walter Kozicky, (Br. 8) who declined

10. Gerald Tysiak nominated Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20) and Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399) nominated Peter Patel, (Br. 139/66) who declined

11. Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399) nominated Andrew Hrechak, (Br. 76).

The Elections Committee:

- Christine Brodyn, (Br. 27)
- Bohdan Odezynskyj, (Br. 216)
- Nadia Salabay, (Br.155)
- Oksana Lew, (Br. 5)
- Ihor Kobil, (Br. 412),
- Cecilia Kachkowski, (Br. 444)
- Bohdan Doboszczak, (Br. 59)
- Stefan Lysiak, (Br. 283/355)
- Oksana Koziak, (Br. 47)
- Andrew Hrechak, (Br. 76)
- Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20).

The nominations were closed by the chair and accepted unanimously.

5c – 5-Member Committee Of Petitions

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, requested nominations to the five-member Petitions Committee.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), asked if a member on the executive committee could serve on the Elections Committee. The answer from the chair was "no."

Petitions Committee:

- Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), nominated Zenowia Serafyn, (Br. 175)
Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381), nominated Julian Pishko, (Br. 385/368)
Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414), advisor nominated Maria Antonyshyn, (Br. 414) declined
Bohdan Odezynskyj, (Br. 216), nominated Ulana Prociuk, (Br. 397)
Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), nominated Luba Keske, (Br. 257/307)
Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), nominated Irene Pryjma, (Br. 292)

Petitions Committee:

- Zenowia Serafyn, (Br. 175)
- Julian Pishko, (Br. 385/368)
- Ulana Prociuk, (Br. 397)
- Luba Keske, (Br. 257/307)
- Irene Pryjma, (Br. 292)

5d – 6-Member Secretaries Committee

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, closed nominations for the Petitions Committee and called for nominations to the six-member Secretaries Committee. He explained that they would meet once and prepare recommendations dealing with the office of Branch Secretary.

- Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414) advisor nominated Judith Hawryluk, (Br. 360) and Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414) advisor, nominated Gloria Paschen, (Br. 125/220) declined
- Myron Groch, (Br. 461) advisor nominated Anna Buriy, (Br. 402/466)
- Gloria Paschen, (Br. 125/220) nominated Eli Matiash, (Br. 120)
- Christine E. Kozak national secretary, nominated Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25)
- Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340) nominated Motria Milanytch, (Br. 450/241) and Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340) nominated Maria Oscislawski (Br. 234) declined
- Tymko Butrej, (Br. 164/162) nominated Michael Zacharko, (Br. 349).

The Secretaries' Committee:

- Judith Hawryluk, (Br. 360)
- Anna Buriy, (Br. 402/466)
- Eli Matiash, (Br. 120)
- Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25)
- Motria Milanytch, (Br. 450/241)
- Michael Zacharko, (Br. 349)

Bohdan Odezynskyj, (Br. 216), asked if it would be possible to print names of the members' various committees and distribute to the delegates.

The committees were accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, named two sergeants-at-arms: Michael Bohdan (Br. 133/338) and Donald Horbaty (Br. 414).

Gerald Tysiak, (Br. 13), suggested, that given the technology available to us today, in addition to the list of Committee members, which will be distributed, we should take pictures of the various committee members.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, promised to consider this suggestion; he proceeded to the last part of item six on the agenda, "Appointment of the Resolutions Committee." He expressed his intention to appoint the Committee before this session was over, but for this, a separate meeting was needed, possibly on Sunday. He asked the Executive Committee to recommend a list of delegates to serve on the Resolutions Committee. He also invited any delegate interested in serving on the committee to present himself to the executive committee.

7. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

President	Stefan Kaczaraj
First Vice-President	Martha Lysko
Second Vice-President	Eugene Iwanciw (deceased)
Director for Canada	Al Kachkowski
National Secretary	Christine E. Kozak
Treasurer	Roma Lisovich

Taras Szmagala, Sr., chairman of the convention, informed the convention of the

next item on the agenda and continued, that each executive would have an opportunity to add to his/her report, embellish it, to the written reports received by the delegates.

Vera Krywyj, (Br. 174) asked everyone, in Ukrainian, at the convention to raise their hand if they did not understand Ukrainian. She objected to the proceedings being conducted in English.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention answered that he understood her emotion, but although he understood Ukrainian, for him it was easier to express himself in English.

Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399), and others protested the seemingly exclusive use of English, bringing up reasons, that we, "a Ukrainian organization are not using Ukrainian," and other emotional reasons.

Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381), said that this was her first time as a delegate; that she did not have that much experience or knowledge, as others, but she said, she knew that the elders who began this organization, held the Ukrainian language in the highest esteem and that we should preserve it. She said that the proceedings should be conducted in two languages, so that all understood them, after all our organization is: the "Ukrainian National Association."

Martha Lysko, first vice-president, explained that we already elected the chairperson and agreed to the proceedings, without making the use of Ukrainian or English an additional point of discussion. The co-chairpersons, she said, speak Ukrainian and will be using Ukrainian when their turn comes to chair the sessions. But, she added, that she would like to proceed with her report.

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, took the floor and explained that according to the UNA By-Laws, either Ukrainian or English can be used during the convention, neither of the languages takes precedence over the other. Michael Sawkiw asked Martha Lysko to deliver her report as per the agenda.

7. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MARTHA LYSKO, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Martha Lysko, first vice-president said that at the last convention she was elected first vice-president, but her role had changed substantially. During her last term, she was the National Secretary and was working in the office every day. Now as first vice-president, she was in the field. At the last convention, there was talk about "in house" and "out of house" executives. As first vice-president, she had become an "out of house" executive. Either way the work was still the same. People who become elected to office should have the same objective, whether they work in the office or in the community. Underscoring her work, she emphasized three essential things:

"The most important thing is membership. I devoted a lot of time in organizing new members. Could I have done better? Yes, but I did the best I could, I organized 22 members with over one million dollars in insurance.

"The second thing I stressed was working in the field to get the UNA recognized again. We had been so self-absorbed with our problems for several years that we had not been in the field saying, look at us, we are still the strongest, the best organization that the diaspora has. I was out there. I am fortunate to live in Washington. For several years, I have been working with the Ukrainian Embassy organizing their program for children adopted from Ukraine by Americans. I have also been working with all the organizations in the area to promote the good name of the UNA.

"Thirdly, I concentrated on not being in opposition to the executives in the home office, but to offer support and cooperation. If they asked for my cooperation, I certainly gave it to them, and I hope that we all cooperate to resolve our problems. We all have problems, yes, I have read the history of the UNA conventions in the past, and every convention had problems, and yet we have survived for 112 years. With God's blessing, we'll survive for another hundred years. Thank you."

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, recalled that the UNA has been a member of the National Fraternal Congress of America for many years and introduced Fred Grubbe, president of the National Fraternal Congress.

Fred Grubbe, president of the National Fraternal Congress: Fred Grubbe thanked Stefan Kaczaraj for the invitation to address the assembly on the subject: "The State of the Fraternal Benefits System."

"Four years ago I had the privilege of addressing you in Chicago at your last quadrennial meeting and I was touched by the courtesy extended to me. It was no different last night. The dinner was wonderful. O. Trytjak has done a terrific job. Thank you very much, for such a beautiful scenic location.

The National Fraternal Congress of America is the trade association for all fraternal benefit societies in America and our focus is on advocacy on behalf of all fraternal in the United States as well as communication, education and general information.

Since January of 2005 we have been engaged in battle with the Federal government to preserve the Federal 501(c)(a) tax exemption that was granted to fraternal benefit societies, coincidentally in 1894, the year of your founding as well. This issue has come up because Congress is looking for revenue in order to pay for extending tax cuts, but also because of these unbelievable deficits that they face. This year I believe that amount is \$300 billion to \$400 billion. And so anywhere they can find revenue they are trying to accumulate it. Twenty years ago they tried to target fraternal for the same purpose. We fought that battle and we won that battle. But fraternalists are very modest people. They tend to let the good deeds that they do speak for themselves and they immediately put their heads right back in the sand and for 20 years were nearly invisible.

Apparently, on Capitol Hill once you're on the table, so to speak, they never take you off the table. They just set you aside. And that's what happened. We were told by the Joint Committee on Taxation, which is a committee that supports the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees, which they never forgot about us. They just decided not to go after us until they felt that the timing was right. And so with the big deficits, they felt the timing was right. We fought this immediately. We hired a lobbyist in Washington; we made monthly visits to Capitol Hill. We met with every member of the Senate Finance Committee or their chief staffer, and we met with two-thirds of the House Ways

and Means Committee or their chief staffer, as well as the Committee staffs.

We have an immediate goal. That goal was to stay out of the committee markups that come at the end of the year. We were successful. We were in neither the House Ways and Means, nor the Senate Finance committee to mark up bills. So that's the first victory. The second victory, though, was yet to come, because those two committees' bills go into, what's called, a Senate-House Conference Committee. And they debate about the measures in both bills in order to arrive at a compromise measure that would then take the guise of the Budget Reconciliation Act of 2006.

Unfortunately, true to form, our members of Congress did not get around to doing this, a measure that should have been approved last October. They didn't get around to doing this until this month. On May 17 President George W. Bush signed it into law. And the goal was to not be in that Conference Committee Report and the subsequent legislation. We were not in the legislation. Two victories; chalk up two for the good guys.

Now, we are fighting the third battle. In exchange for his support, for this Budget Reconciliation Act, Senate Finance Committee chairman Charles Grassley, a Republican from Iowa, received approval from the House and Senate leadership to develop a second tax bill, which is unusual. And in this second tax bill, they are going to put tax credits that will be extended, such as the Research and Development Business tax credit, but Sen. Grassley is very focused on tax-exempt reform and there is a good possibility that we could be included in that.

However, House Ways and Means chairman Thomas doesn't want to target individual not-for-profits. Chairman Thomas instead wants comprehensive tax-exempt reform and therefore, we will have a battle with them and, if they hold true to form, perhaps they can extend it beyond the elections, maybe into 2007 or 2008, who knows. So feel pretty good about the position that we're in. This whole episode has taught us an important lesson. Fraternalists for years have belonged to a culture that doesn't like to talk about itself, a culture that doesn't like to shine the light on the good works that they do. And yet it is precisely the reason that they feel comfortable in going after us. And so, the National Fraternal Congress of America has made a decision to go forward with a new Fraternal Recognition program called Fraternalists in Action. This is a program whereby we will recognize fraternal MVP's, "Most Valuable Participants," on a weekly basis. And we will be selecting these names based on names given to us by our member societies. Every member society was asked to send us a list of names, the number dependent on the size of their assets and we broke them down into five groups: so every week, five new fraternalists will be recognized for their fraternal activity. At the end of each month, we will randomly select one person from each of the five groups who will represent the system in Washington, D.C.

They will meet with their representative; they'll meet with their two senators, they will meet with the representative in whose district the home office resides. This public awareness program is designed to increase the visibility of individual fraternalists. Fraternalists have thousands and thousands of stories. I look at the audience today and every one of you can come up with a hundred fraternal stories, possibly even events and programs in which you possibly participated, and acts of charity, acts of volunteerism. That's the story. It's not the lobbyist in Washington, making the case for why we should be tax-exempt. It is hooking up the politician with the underground fraternalist.

Now this increased visibility also has a media side. The NFCA generates press releases that it sends to the local hometown paper of the individual being recognized (the newspapers in the hometown of the domiciled society). It gets sent to the members of Congress, to the local state officials, your state representative, your state senator, with the idea to start publicity. In the first month alone, we kicked this off in the beginning of May; two state legislatures passed resolutions recognizing two fraternal MVP's, one in Louisiana and one in Colorado. And that's quite a testament to the value and the importance of publicizing who you are and what you do. And the same will hold true of your society, because every name that we receive will eventually be recognized at some point during the year.

You are the story, and by hooking you up with elected officials; this is what creates visibility, this is what shows them, hands on, why we are entitled to maintain the tax exemption, because of the good that we do. As a system we spend about \$400 million every single year on charitable and fraternal programs. As a system, we volunteer almost one hundred million hours of time in local communities nationwide. And whether it is money that is set-aside for Special Olympics, or Habitat for Humanity homebuilding, or a fund-raiser for a specially equipped van to transport the family of a child who is a quadriplegic. That's what fraternalists do; that's who they are. And our program is going to focus attention on them.

For years, Join Hands Day has been a day of national service that is supported and sponsored by fraternal benefit societies in America. And that compliments the Fraternalists in Action program. Join Hands Day took place on May 6, [2006]. We had over twelve hundred projects nationwide that brought in an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people participating. These are incredible numbers and they are fraternal numbers.

In addition, we have some business issues that we are dealing with: the question of solvency – the solvency of the system, in our commitment at the NFCA to the survival of the system, not necessarily the survival of the individual society. For the last two years we have been working with all of our member societies to provide ratios, (25 ratios based on key financial data provided to us by the member societies with a customized analysis) that says, these are your weak points; these are your strengths; this is what we suggest you work on in order to strengthen your organization. If we were not paying attention to the business side of our operation, the fraternal side simply can't exist. You have to be solvent; you have to run sound business operations; you have to have strong governance, strong management, but above all, guided by the commitment to fraternalism and to your members.

Much of this will be reviewed over the course of the summer as we look to change our own membership standards, introduce new ones to lift up the industry, not so much to exclude, but to provide our member societies a list of things that we should be and need to be doing to ensure that they are sound business operations, that are able to sustain and enhance the fraternal side. The NFCA is very proud to represent you and all of its member societies.

We believe that the culture of our system can change and I liken it to a 747. The fraternal benefit system is enormous, but like a 747, it is very slow, very lumbering, and when you turn, it is very gradual. Imagine if a 747 tried to make a turn on a dime, like a fighter jet. It would stall and it would crash. Half of the time, we are going slowly

and incrementally to introduce changes. In our long esteemed history, fraternalists today live in a time of opportunity. It's a time for us to rediscover and reinforce our fraternal mission, our purpose and our values, and instill it in the youth that are tomorrow's fraternalists. We have to adapt and change to changing times and never forget and forsake our fraternal purpose, as we look for ways to highlight the good that we do and to emphasize our relevance in today's changing society.

I would like to leave you with these words, from the writer, C.S. Lewis: 'You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.' I thank all of you for having me here today. May God bless all fraternalists for their good work and may he bless the United States of America. Thank you."

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, thanked Fred Grubbe on behalf of the delegates, saying that he cherished the words of C.S. Lewis and stated that the UNA has been around for 112 years and remains vibrant and thriving, bringing in new membership every day. Michael Sawkiw thanked Fred Grubbe for his remarks and his fraternal brotherhood and welcomed him to the convention.

7. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALBERT KACHKOWSKI, DIRECTOR FOR CANADA

Albert Kachkowski, (Br. 444), director for Canada, began with a French greeting, "Bon jour mes ami" – Good day my friends. This greeting, he said was in one of the official languages of Canada, and he illustrated that in the By-Laws of the Saskatoon Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Committee, members are obliged to have respect for each of the three languages, Ukrainian, English and French, the last, one of the official languages of Canada. He was confident that every person at the convention respected either of the languages used at this convention. He asked for a show of hands of anyone who did not understand English. He mentioned, that there were 6-8 people who did not understand Ukrainian. He asked for understanding for the fact that for the most part, his report would be in English.

"The Rev. Father and dear delegates," he greeted everyone from this historic convention, which for the first time was held at Soyuzivka, and he was sure that this convention would prove to be historic as it unfolded. He asked everyone to read his report and that he would be adding some new information to it.

He commended the UNA for founding the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation to support the precious UNA estate. He reminded the Convention delegates that it was at the Toronto convention that the idea to explore the area of charitable giving as a means to support Soyuzivka was suggested. For the past four years he had occupied the position of Director for Canada. He said that it was significant that the Executive Committee consisted of three paid and three volunteers (he, being a volunteer). He continued, that he had assumed this position at the Chicago convention in a crisis situation. His intention was to forestall the demise of the UNA Canadian operation.

Most of the secretaries in Canada, he said, were not enrolling new members, and that many, if not most, wanted to be replaced. The General Assembly and the Executives had devoted only minimal time or effort on the topic of Canada.

However, certain facts about the Ukrainian Canadian population have not changed. They are one million strong; busy developing and maintaining their Ukrainian culture, despite the huge inroads made by forces of assimilation. He had been asked this week whether there was potential for the UNA in Canada. "Yes," whether it was possible to reestablish a respectable membership growth pattern, "yes." To do this, what would be required, at the bare minimum?

The active participation of our UNA headquarters and with the endorsement of this convention, continued Al Kachkowski, that they would need a planning conference of our best UNA leaders and persons with organizing skills from both sides of the border, that would dedicate itself to formulating a plan of action and implementation, as requested by the Canadian committee led by the late Tekla Moroz. It would require at least one full-time paid dedicated organizer, whatever the title. In short, we would have to get serious about Canada.

The decision, he said, was up to the delegates of this convention. He also thanked the General Assembly for the opportunity of having served it the past eight years and in the Executive Committee.

Taras Szmagala, Sr., chairman of the convention, then called on the national secretary, Christine E. Kozak to give her report.

7. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHRISTINE E. KOZAK, NATIONAL SECRETARY

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary, noted that her report was written in English, as there was difficulty with translating some of the phrasiology. She said that in speaking, she would be switching between Ukrainian and English, "half na piv" (fifty-fifty), and she was born in this country, and considers herself to be American as well as Ukrainian.

She will be adding to her written report: Thank you to the delegates of the 35th Convention for electing me to the office of National Secretary. Coming into this office, I knew that this would not be an easy job since previously working as Director of Insurance Operations and assistant to Martha Lysko, she was well versed in some of the problems facing UNA. But she took on the challenge and will continue to do so if re-elected into this position.

Continuing, she thanked all of the new branch secretaries that have come on board in the last four years. They too realize this is not an easy task. It takes sacrifice and commitment to excel as a branch secretary and although some experienced secretaries have voiced that it is an impossible task, I beg to differ. The branch secretary is but one piece of the puzzle that has the task of selling life insurance. And you MUST continue to do so. Not only must you continue but also you must step up your recruitment of new members. We have many secretaries who have not produced ANY new members in 4 years, some who have not produced any new members in 8 years. This cannot continue.

"Being with the UNA for 10 years, I have noticed several occurrences pre- and post-convention. Prior to a convention, the production of new members increases. All of a sudden there is a flurry of activity – we receive life and annuity applications from secretaries and I must add, applications from members of the General Assembly prior to the convention. Great! – You can do it!

However, after the convention, some of these policies lapse and the recruitment of new members slows down to a trickle. IS this right? What a waste of UNA monies! And just some food for thought: the same problem exists with weddings at Soyuzivka. In order to receive a discount for a wedding at Soyuzivka, the happy couple must be members of UNA. Great! They buy a policy, get their discount, have their happy nuptials, and after the wedding ... the policies lapse! AND THEN EVERYONE IS AGAST THAT UNA MEMBERSHIP IS DECLINING!

Each month the secretary receives a list of their members who will be lapsing, terminating, maturing etc. YOU NEED TO BE PROACTIVE and call these individuals. I realize these are not our only problems but something I wanted to point out to you – WE ALL MUST WORK AT THIS TOGETHER.

Another subject I will raise, a most unpopular one and I will probably be the most despised person at this convention for mentioning it – the age of some branch secretaries. With all due respect to all of our secretaries, many of whom have held their position for MANY years, one secretary has been with the UNA for 71 years – a secretary for 71 years. This is most admirable – 71 years, however, look at it from another angle. A man age 40 has a wife, 2.5 children, invests in stock, bonds, etc., will he ever entertain the notion to purchase a life insurance policy or annuity from a UNA secretary who is 80 years old? I sincerely apologize to all that I am offending at this moment, but this is a reality we deal with every single day and one reason why it is impossible for some of our branch secretaries to sell life insurance or annuities.

We must think about having a retirement age for our branch secretaries. This does not mean that we do not need you any longer. By far, we do, but in a different capacity. Find the younger people in your branches and let them do the hustling. You can help them. You have the knowledge of UNA history, you can help train them, and you can guide them to be a successful branch secretary. You can help with conserving policies; you can help with communicating to your members. There is a role for everyone, and we need as many people as possible to be active in order to help UNA succeed. The branch secretary, the district leadership, the professional at the Home Office, the professional out in the field, a professional sales force complementing our branch secretaries. All must work together – an orchestra if you will – and the objective for everyone: membership, membership, and membership.

Another issue is the lack of any activity in Canada. In the last four years, Canadian membership in the UNA has increased by 45 members, 10 of which were sold by UNA Home Office employees. In four years these 45 policies brought in \$11,248 in annual premiums. This is an average of \$2,812 per year in annual premiums. This does not cover the cost of our Canadian actuary – never mind all of the other regulatory fees, administration costs etc. Membership in Canada totals 2,308 policies in-force; this is our active premium paying policies, paid up policies and policies on ETI. Out of the 2,308 policies, 1,146 are active premium paying policies and 1,162 are paid up and/or on ETI.

This is another touchy issue, but one that also must be addressed by this convention. UNA is one of the last U.S. fraternal organizations that have not exited Canada. Other fraternalists have exited because Canada does not like fraternalists and has over the years, placed excessive regulations on U.S. Fraternalists, burdensome administrative costs, fees, taxes, plus UNA costs for Chief Agent and Canadian actuarial services.

Life insurance in Canada is sold at every corner making it extremely difficult for UNA to compete with this. And in all honesty, our Canadian branch secretaries and organizers, for all intents and purposes, have almost halted any recruitment of new members. By exiting Canada our objective should be to ultimately eliminate the costs associated with having business in Canada but without losing our Canadian members; to convert Canadian policy benefits paid in Canadian dollars, to American policies paid out in American dollars. Stefan Kaczaraj will expand on the topic of Canadian business. This is an explosive, an emotional and complex issue, but one that must be discussed and decided upon. The decision is yours.

With all of this doom and gloom there are however, some positive factors that I would like to touch upon:

- UNA has in the past four years recruited 24 new secretaries – their average age combined is 54 – in comparison with the current average of 67 of our branch secretaries.
- Face amount – the average face amount of UNA members is steadily increasing. Obviously this is tied to the rise in cost of living, however, the higher the face amount, the higher the premiums paid.
- UNA's in-force amount is also slowly rising
- The average face amount of new business is also rising; at year-end of 2001 the average face amount sold was \$17,800. At year-end of 2005, the average face amount sold was \$23,000.
- Current age analysis – largest block paying premiums are age 50-59, followed by age 10 – 19. UNA's premium paying members age 60 and under total 12,633 policies vs. 5,899 premium paying policies age 60 and up.
- UNA's annuity business is steadily rising. At year-end of 2001 UNA had \$12,144,469 in-force in annuities. At year end of 2005 UNA reported \$20,930,637 in force in annuities.

The UNA is a member organization. If each branch secretary were to recruit a minimum of 4 new members per year (one per quarter) we still would not reach the amount of members that UNA used to recruit. And this is why we are adding on professional agents to do what they do best. Sell policies. However, in building UNA to what it was we must begin and continue at the grassroots level. This begins with the member. They can refer other members, the secretaries can sell or also refer to the UNA Home Office, the districts they are also charged with responsibility, the professionals do what they need to do, each complimenting the other and each working in conjunction with the other. We work together and, together as in the past, the UNA will continue to build and thrive.

I ask as you contemplate the delegates that are running for office, please think about what they have done in the past and what can they do in the future. Unfortunately, UNA has people on the General Assembly who as one advisor told me at a General Assembly meeting, "It looks good on my resume"! We need people who are willing to work – to recruit members to organize, read my report and look at the numbers presented in the charts and the graphs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers, the masses said

on my behalf, the cards, flowers and well wishes. It was a very difficult road to travel made so much easier with the knowledge that I had so much support. And lastly, a very special heartfelt thank you and my most deep gratitude to Martha Lysko, UNA 1st Vice President for her unwavering support and sacrifice during my time of need; she traveled from Washington, D.C. to be in the UNA Home Office in Parsippany, N.J., taking care of business in my absence. Being exceptionally comfortable with Martha at the office, I was able to concentrate on the life threatening issues that were thrown before me and not worry about what was happening at the UNA. I knew that it was doing just fine because Martha was there. Mere words are not sufficient for the support I received from M. Lysko, but from the bottom of my heart – I say Thank you! Your support will never be forgotten.

Taras Szmagala, Sr. chairman of the convention, announced the president's report would be given at the end of the executives' reports.

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, continued the announcements, saying that this was a working lunch; any election material and brochures may be distributed in this hall only.

After lunch, 1:30 p.m., the session resumed, chaired by Michael Sawkiw.

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, thanked Nestor Paslawsky, Soyuzivka manager and Andrij Sonevytsky for a delicious meal. The session would continue with reports of the Executive Committee. Before resuming the agenda, Michael Sawkiw asked if there were any additional nominations to the Resolutions Committee. Oksana Koziak, (Br. 47) nominated Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381) to the Resolutions Committee; he then asked them to stand up and introduce themselves so later they could be approached regarding resolutions:

6. APPOINTMENT TO RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

1. Edward Melnychuk, (Br. 234)
2. Wasyl Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347)
3. Iouri Lazirko, (Br. 134/142)
4. George Soltys, (Br. 327)
5. Maya Lew, (Br. 5)
6. Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381).

The announced members were accepted by the convention as members of the Resolutions Committee.

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary, made an announcement that she has received applications from the following persons, a tradition at every convention:

Vera Krywyj, (Br. 174), three applications,
Martha Lysko, first vice-president, five applications,
Eli Matiash, (Br. 120), two applications,
Nicholas Fil, (Br. 13), two applications,
Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358) auditor, one application,
Alexander Redko, (Br. 130), five applications

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary continued with the following announcements recognizing various achievements for secretaries and organizers who have diligently worked for the UNA over the years.

BEST PERFORMING UNA DISTRICTS:

Albany, awarded to Nicholas Fil, District Chairman
Detroit, awarded to Alexander Serafyn, District Chairman
Pittsburgh, awarded to Nicholas Diakiwsky, District Chairman

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary, continued presenting recognition awards for the following:

BEST ORGANIZERS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING YEARS MEMBERS OF THE CLUB OF UNA BUILDERS

For 2002	Lubov Streletsky (Br. 10)	24 members
For 2003	Christine Brodyn (Br. 27)	18 members (employed at UNA Office, holds license)
For 2004	Lubov Streletsky (Br. 10)	20 members
For 2005	Stefko Woch (Br. 171)	25 members, (employed at UNA Office, holds license)

Stefko Woch (Br. 171) – \$1,443,534 – Most dollar amount in Annuities 2002 – 2005
Christine Brodyn (Br. 27) – \$46,988 – Life insurance annual premium for 2002 - 2005
Christine Brodyn (Br. 27) – \$2,869,634 – Most face amount of insurance sold 2002-2005
Myron Pylypiak (Br. 496) – 69 members – Best Organizer 2002-2005

50 – OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE AS BRANCH SECRETARY:

Mary Pelechaty, (Br.165)	71 years of service
Nicholas Bobeczko, (Br. 102)	60 years of service
Oleksa Prodywus, (Br. 356)	53 years of service
Wlademyr Wladyka, (Br. 364)	53 years of service
Helen Slovik, (Br. 7)	52 years of service
Peter Serba, (Br. 173)	52 years of service
Lew Bodnar, (Br. 131)	51 years of service

A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF HONOR WAS AWARDED TO:

Anne Chopek, (Br. 307) honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, for her service to the UNA, who became an advisor of the UNA General Assembly in 1954 AND **Stefan Hawrysz**, (Br. 83), 54 years as branch secretary, for service in building the UNA to the powerhouse it was in the past and still is today; member of the General Assembly, District Chairman for many years, recruiting over 2,000 members over the 54-year period.

PRE CONVENTION "Sales Blitz" and the WINNERS are:

Joseph Chabon, (Br. 242)	1st place	Philadelphia District Chairman
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Joyce Kotch, (Br. 39)	2nd place	Syracuse District
Stefan Hawrysz, (Br. 83)	3rd place	General Assembly Member, Philadelphia District Chairman

NEW SECRETARIES

2002		2003	
206	Irene V. Sarachmon	240	Bohdan Samokyszyn
441	Susan Soldan	130	Alex Redko
22	Michael Kuropas	133	Michael W. Bohdan
15	Maria V. Lischak		
269	Volodymyr Kaploun	2004	
257	Paul Bilecky	254	Adam Platosz
2005		2006	
5	Maya Lew	345	Alexander Poletz
327	Bohdan Podoliuk	94	Nestor Tatarsky
76	Michael Koziupa	13	Nicholas Fil
472	Roman Zajac	465	Alexander Kisak
184	Andrew W. Lastowecky	269	Valentina Kaploun
70	Ann Marie Jacewicz	500	Myroslav Hladyshevsky
283	Stefan Lysiak		
47	Oksana Koziak		

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary, thanked everyone for an outstanding job and wished everyone success in their future endeavors.

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, announced that the reports of the members of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly would continue. For this, four hours were allotted. He turned the floor over to Wasyl Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention.

Wasyl Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, considered it an honor to be a convention co-chairman for the third time. He reminded us that the report of the president of the UNA would come last. This would allow him to tie all ends and clarify everything.

7. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROMA LISOVICH, TREASURER

Roma Lisovich, treasurer, said that her reports as well as that of Stefan Kaczaraj were in a separate package. She also, said that her Ukrainian was not perfect, and as she, also, was born in the U.S.A.

She thanked the delegates who came to this convention and those delegates who elected her. She said that when she assumed the responsibilities of her office, she sincerely wanted to fulfill her obligations, because she really believed that the Ukrainian National Association was a non-political and non-sectarian organization, and was the most important organization in the past and continues to be one today.

She continued, that our organization had a rich history, which she appreciated, and for this reason, she had worked for it, she would continue to work for it, if the delegates would have confidence in her. She believed, that this organization would have to be completely renewed, re-staffed with new young blood. She was under the impression that she and her co-workers were the youngest in the UNA, however in the eyes of our children, they were already the older generation. She wished that the UNA would acquire an entire generation of young people like Maya Lew, secretary of Branch 5.

During these past four years there were moments of great success, and difficult moments. Our UNA, she said, was unusually well organized, but that changes were necessary.

Starting with financial matters, she unfortunately could not say that our financial status was exactly a success; we continued to have financial problems. It would seem, that four years would be a long time to overhaul the organization, update it, stabilize it financially, and restore it to its previously healthy condition. In truth, she continued, it was only the beginning.

It took a year or two just to get an understanding how many problems there were and how to approach them. Try one-way – it didn't work, try another- didn't work. The main thing, she said, was to keep trying, and if one door closed, another would open. This is how we proceeded.

Take a look at Soyuzivka, there were a lot of improvements. Actually, she admitted, this was one of the tasks in her four year term, during which she met unusually dedicated and hard working people, who tried to help us renovate this pearl of the Ukrainian community. These people were from the younger generation. Although we heard a lot of complaints of our younger generation not being interested in Soyuzivka, in things Ukrainian, or preserving our heritage, she came to a completely opposite conclusion that our strength rested in the under-30 generation. We had begun to attract them; we already had a delegate from the younger generation among us; and we should be following up with our plans to rejuvenate the UNA; she believed that at the next convention, our organization would be in a much better state.

She then switched to the condition of our assets. In the past four years, there had not been much change in our assets; our organization was financially strong with \$64,875,000. Many people think that all this money was at our disposal; but unless, we had profit, we were not allowed to touch this money; our investments, she continued, were very conservative. It was one thing that we had and placed great value on; we had great responsibility to all our members and we had to be conservative with our investments; she said that there were state regulations, which put limits on what we could do with our assets.

The investments were mostly in government bonds, comprising 75% of our portfolio. We tried very hard in these four years to improve our financial affairs. A positive outcome was that we succeeded in avoiding the negatives, which had plagued many financial institutions in the U.S.A. She said, that a lot of hard work during these four years went into acquiring a more solid base; employing a corporation of professionals to help us improve.

In insurance there are three sources of income, first two are premiums, which we collect, and income from investments. Today insurance companies earn their money from investments. Among all insurance companies profits come for the most part from investment income, rather than from life insurance premiums. Throughout the industry there is more profit from annuities than traditional life policies. Therefore we had to make changes in our portfolio to affect that balance. We had begun to do that successfully; and with professional help, she was confident, UNA would continue to improve its financial status.

The next topic was the analysis of our reserve; she said it also had to improve. UNA had begun in 2002 with \$5,835,000 in reserves; now it was \$4,263,000; for the next term our main goal would be to improve our reserves. When policies were not being sold, there was no income; the financial well-being of our organization depended on the increase in our membership; as we were not receiving income, we could finance neither Soyuzivka nor our publications; our earnings had to improve.

She continued, that the largest negative effects on our reserves were Soyuzivka, our publications and fraternal benefits; Soyuzivka had the most significant effect. Despite all the improvements at Soyuzivka there were constant attempts at creating something original; nevertheless, it remained a burden financially. There are taxes and insurance costs, which are due on a monthly basis, regardless of whether Soyuzivka is open or not.

The main thing is that Soyuzivka needs to become an attraction with year round occupancy. This would require large funds. She would talk more about Soyuzivka when the topic came up later in the agenda. There she would explain, why a foundation was created and how and why it would help us. She was glad that the convention was being held here at Soyuzivka. Financially UNA cannot continue to subsidize Soyuzivka, however, we must work at saving it.

As far as the publications were concerned, Svoboda existed before our organization had come into being; it is a very important part of our organization since it is a means by which the UNA is able to communicate with its members. The publications have to change, she continued, in a new non-traditional way for it to function. As Ukraine became independent, our publications were subject to many influences and many competitive papers are often distributed free of charge. These papers often would plagiarize our articles without offering compensation, while we had to pay our editors. These were the factors that we were trying to cope with and for which we were trying to find the best solutions. With the help of our editors, executives and your advice, we will continue on this path.

She said that by looking at the financial report, we would be able to see what was done in the past four years, urging a study on it and preparing questions for discussion, offering that she or Stefan Kaczaraj would be happy to answer any questions.

She said that she found unusual pleasure to work these past years in this organization. She got to know and made friends with many people dedicated to Soyuzivka, to our community and the UNA and hopes to see more of them enter our ranks. She thanked the delegates for their attention.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman thanked R. Lisovich for her comprehensive report. W. Kolodchin called Zenon Holubec, chairman of the auditing committee to deliver his report.

8. REPORTS OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Zenon Holubec, Alexander Serafyn, Yaroslav Zaviysky

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358), head of the Auditing Committee said that his report was included among all the other reports from the 36th Convention. He wanted to review the actions of the auditing committee during the past four years. Audits were carried out twice a year until the General Assembly meetings were changed from November to September. From then on, he continued, meetings would be held once a year. During every audit, the auditors met with the Executive Committee, reviewed activities for the reporting period and over the financial reports presented to them. They also reviewed the carrying out of the resolutions of the 35th convention. He verified the fact these resolutions, with one small exception, were implemented. The exception was the erection of the monument in honor of Patriarch Mstyslav was not done, as the fate of Soyuzivka had been uncertain.

Also they went over the condition of advertising clients' debt accounts with Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, status of the publishing house and the financial status of Soyuzivka. The reports of their audits were published in Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, having been prepared by Alexander Serafyn. During every audit they had gone over independent CPA audits for years, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. In the opinion of the independent CPA auditors, the financial reports which were completed by the 31st of December of each of the four years agreed with Standard Accounting Practices. There were no exceptions.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175), auditor, said that his report was written in Ukrainian and had been included with all the others received by the delegates. He asked that they familiarize themselves with it. He also took the opportunity to thank the delegates for electing him, for their cooperation in the past 12 years and said that this report would be his last.

Yaroslav Zaviysky, (Br. 155), auditor, delivered his report, saying that because of technical difficulties he was unable to deliver his report in time for publication and the report, to this day was suspended somewhere on the Internet, perhaps one day it would be found. He proceeded to read it in its entirety.

First, he wanted to thank sincerely the delegates from the previous convention in Chicago, for their votes and support and for re-electing him to the Auditing Committee. He thanked the delegates for their confidence in him. He also wanted to take the opportunity to convey his sincere greetings and wishes for a successful convention from 20,000-member strong Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union "Selfreliance" in Chicago, its employees and directors, personally, and in the capacity as vice president of the Newark, Parsippany and Jersey City branches. He conveyed best wishes for success and productive results for the benefit of the UNA and the entire Ukrainian community. He thanked for the delegates for their attention.

He then proceeded to describe his activity. From May 2002 to today he participated in all meetings of the Auditing Committee which took place in the home office in Parsippany, N.J. The committee reviewed all matters concerned with fulfilling resolu-

tions passed by the last convention in Chicago, organizational, financial and publishing activities of the UNA, the general administrative activity of the home office, the UNA estate, Soyuzivka, and the building management related to rental of office space in the UNA building in Parsippany. Every meeting of the Auditing Committee was a working session with the executives, where all matters concerning the above-mentioned topics, as well as a number of current problems were discussed.

He also participated in the annual meetings of the General Assembly of the UNA at Soyuzivka, with the exception of one time, when he couldn't attend due to health problems. He also took part in the meetings of the Scholarship Committee, where decisions were made about the distribution of scholarship funds for student members of the UNA. Having been delegated by the head of the Auditing Committee, Zenon Holubec, several times, he had represented the Auditing Committee during the UNA Executive Committee meetings. This was done in order to save on travel and housing expenses for the UNA, since he lived in New Jersey. He had also represented the General Assembly during the annual general meetings of the Central NJ District.

During the last meeting of the district, he was elected district chairman and continued as secretary of UNA Br. 155, having been first elected in 1991. To his regret, he admitted that in this position he had not been very successful. He did not know why, but every year it was getting more difficult to recruit new members to the UNA. Maybe, he said, it was because of difficult economic conditions in the country, or because of demographic dynamics in our diaspora, or one or a combination of different reasons. The decline in new UNA membership, in his opinion, was a problem for the entire UNA. It was difficult to compare the last ten years with the success UNA had had in the 50's, 60's and even 70's. The Ukrainian community at that time had been living closer together, more goal oriented in preserving national-cultural traditions, demographically homogeneous and populating certain areas. This was a result of a political immigration of Ukrainians to the U.S. after World War II.

Today, the situation is completely different. Thank God, Ukraine had come to life and had become independent. After a long pause from the 60's, 70's and 80's there was a new immigration to America, but in numbers and character, it was much different from the previous one; not a massive wave, only two to three thousand a year, and an economic emigration. The fact that the present immigrants were geographically scattered and the new immigrants had different priorities, in his opinion, it had a negative effect on the growth of UNA membership.

Therefore, he thought, that it would be worthwhile to review the quality of the services the UNA offers at certain times and offer new services that would be in greater demand today and have greater success. One example he offered, would be offering residential mortgages. In this field the UNA could do something and produce results. If not mistaken, the UNA offers a mortgage for not more than 50% of the value of a house. Who today, could afford to put 50 percent down? How many potential clients had we lost due to such a conservative loan policy in the UNA! At a time when the standard down payment in the mortgage industry is 20 percent and the value of real property constantly rising, wouldn't it be worth lowering the down payment to 25 percent or even 20 percent? Even when the interest rates in UNA would be favorable, which they were in the past, there was an additional requirement of a life insurance policy equal to the amount of the mortgage loan. This added to the cost of the mortgage. When we include the cost of life insurance in the total mortgage costs, the interest rate in effect would become higher and the loan would become less attractive. In his opinion this should be abolished. It would be better to have a loan that brings in five percent – seven percent income, than to kill the investment in the financial market for three percent or four percent. The only requirement for securing a loan, he said, should be to subscribe to the newspaper and payment of membership dues.

The problem related to preserving UNA publications, had always been and remains one of UNA's priorities. Our newspapers, he said, was our voice in the community and our advertisement. We should continually, be taking care of the needs of both papers, working to improve their effectiveness and popularity. Much had been done to lower operating costs, at the same time the price of a paper and postage costs increased, which factors were actually not under UNA's control, but had to be included in the price of a subscription. He was confident that electronic publication via the internet, would become a reality, and would lower the costs of publishing and increase the number of subscribers.

The problem of Soyuzivka's deficit had come to a head in the past years. Combined with the general decrease in UNA reserves, a lot of money had been spent, a lot of human effort expanded to resolve this problem especially in these past four years, but the problem remains unresolved and the Soyuzivka deficit threatens the continued well being of the UNA. He believed, that the resolution of this problem would be the main task of the delegates of this convention. He believed and hoped that the delegates would have sufficient understanding of the matter at hand and the decisiveness to resolve the problem.

In conclusion, he thanked the members of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly and colleagues of the Auditing Committee for their help, their kindness and cooperation. He wished them success and health in their deliberations for the good of the UNA, and to all the delegates, that they enjoy themselves at Soyuzivka, thanking everyone for their attention.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the Convention thanked the auditors and moved to the next item on the agenda.

9. REPORTS OF UNA ADVISORS

1. Eugene Oscislawski
2. Stefan Hawrysz
3. Vasył Luchkiw
4. Myron Pylypiak
5. Wasył Lisczenesky
6. Pawlo Prinko
7. Andrij Skyba
8. Michael Kuropas

9. Myron Groch
10. Gloria Horbaty

Eugene Oscislawski, (Br. 234) advisor said he was pleased to be at this convention and thanked everyone who had elected him at the 1998 convention in Toronto, and reelected him at his second convention in Chicago. He took on the responsibility of putting in a lot of effort on behalf of the UNA, most importantly, to recruit new members for the UNA. He believed that everyone had read his report, his outlook and the goals, which he would like to fulfill for the good of the UNA. He also called on the delegates to read his report from the 35th convention from Chicago.

In eight years he had recruited 100 new members and since January of this year, he had recruited seven new members. He is ready to continue serving the UNA, carrying out any duties placed on him by the Executive Committee and that in December of 2006 he was planning to retire from employment and devote more time working for the good of the UNA.

He wanted to emphasize that in the past four years he was pleased to work with the UNA administration, with president Stefan Kaczaraj and national secretary Christine Kozak. He said that he had done everything possible, believing that we should be recruiting as many members as possible, but more effort in this direction, not in reducing numbers and liquidating branches to retain them, trying to find new secretaries, and increasing the number of members. He wished the best to everyone and expressed his willingness to answer any questions.

Stefan Hawrysz, (Br. 83), advisor announced this was his 10th convention. At every convention he was in a position to make a statement. At this convention, he noticed an error in his report that he wanted to correct. During the annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly in May of 2002, he, as a member of the General Assembly, made a motion that the UNA return to the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which it helped create. This matter was put to a vote and it was accepted. "Long live the leadership of this convention," he exclaimed, and thanked the delegates for the opportunity to speak.

Vasyl Luchkiw, (Br. 16), advisor wanted to take a few moments to say something about the topic of language. He granted, this was a big discussion about the Ukrainian language. In the regional area of Ukraine, a foreign language had been declared as an official language of the country. This matter had persecuted us for centuries. The UNA had foreseen this and we had signs in two languages. He reminded us about Shevchenko's words, paraphrased: ...And learn things foreign, but do not renounce your own... He thanked the delegates for their attention.

Myron Pylypiak, (Br. 496), advisor greeted the convention delegates saying that he loved to speak and do things, but only when he was getting support, adding that a person could say or do more, informing that he would not be reading his report, sparing everyone a lot of time. He thanked everyone for electing him as advisor at the last convention.

Being from Seattle, Wash., he said that he worked as a manager of the Detroit branch of Selfreliance Credit Union. His community in Seattle, was happy with the work of the UNA. Referring to his certificate as the best organizer in the UNA with the most new members, he pledged to continue to do the same. He thanked Stefan Kaczaraj and other people in the home office, like Nadia Salabay for practical assistance. This, he said, resulted in his success and he conveyed best wishes to the Executive Committee, to Stefan Kaczaraj and asked everyone to vote for him again.

Wasyl Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, explained that Wasyl Liscenesky could not give his report, since he went to Ukraine, but there was a written report. He called Pawlo Prinko to deliver his report.

Pawlo Prinko, (Br. 83), advisor had come from Ukraine, and was a member of the so-called "Fourth Wave." He had come to America 10 years ago; and in his first year, he became a UNA member. He said that in his activity with the Ukrainian community he learned a lot about our organization. As to his report, he apologized that he had not been able to send it due to technical problems. Having represented the UNA on many occasions, there were many people present and in Philadelphia who could bear witness to his activity. He thanked the General Assembly for their attention and listening to the discussions. He characterized members of the General Assembly as a group of dynamic, dedicated and talented people and he wished them the best of everything.

Speaking of members, he said, the welfare of the UNA depended on members, admitting that he had not recruited as many members as Stefan Hawrysz or L. Streletsky, but attempted to recruit mostly people from the "Fourth Wave." He praised the good work being done by the UNA General Assembly. Despite the situation they were confronted with, they were doing a good job.

He thanked the delegates of the 35th convention for having confidence in him and for electing him. He admitted, that serving in the General Assembly was a great responsibility, a good experience. Again he thanked everyone here.

Andrij Skyba, (Br. 399), advisor opened his remarks with the Easter greeting, "Christ has Risen." Thanking all the delegates who had elected him in the last convention in Chicago, he said that it was a big honor and great pleasure to serve an organization with such a rich history in the diaspora. He said that it was a great pleasure to serve eight years as advisor and that after hearing a lot of praise, it is unfortunate that there were many points of dissatisfaction. He mentioned a Ukrainian folk proverb: 'truth pierces your eyes', words, he said, we should reflect on. The facts spoke for themselves: four years ago we had elected executives to bring back the management and leadership, which our organization had lacked. What had been done in the past four years, and how had the UNA improved? Did our reserves increase? No, not only had they not increased, but fell two million dollars. We had lost membership and our volunteers were being blamed. We, the secretaries, had to be encouraged, not simply told: 'you must recruit members, because without members there would be no UNA'.

One positive thing for the past four years, was what we saw here at Soyuzivka. This convention would probably be the last time to fix the problems, and point the organization in the right direction. We could accumulate mistakes; and say that things would

somehow be taken care of, but it would depend on us; we would have to stick together.

He thanked for the support in the last eight years and had doubts whether he should attend the convention or not, but his heart said: go! He said, he would not leave the UNA and he would be a candidate for second vice-president, and thanked everyone.

Wasyl Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, announced that Michael Kuropas was absent from the convention, and could not give his report. He called upon Myron Groch.

Myron Groch, (Br. 461), advisor greeted delegates saying that for the benefit of the delegates, his written report was included with all other convention documents. He thanked the delegates for electing him at the 35th convention, and added that because he was from Canada and was hearing constantly that Canada had problems, he underscored that he was an advisor of the UNA not of Canada and questioned why the UNA had been looking just at one problem. Was the U.S. so much better off that only Canada had a problem, he asked. It was very easy to divide but more difficult to unite. Why wasn't the UNA looking how to help Canada due to the great potential there. What was needed, he continued, was that someone should come and check out the situation and spend some time there. It was possible to recruit members. What was needed was a change in the approach: how to reach the younger generation, and the so-called "Fourth Wave." These people had completely different outlooks. That which united us in the past, "you are a Ukrainian and you must have a policy" does not work today.

He did not think, that we want to just do away with Canada. He said, we were the same Ukrainians as in America. Why would we want to, he asked, disengage from Canada? We should be looking at how to build and not how to get rid of something as soon as possible. He continued to advise to do something with Canada; and that we should leave Canada the way it is, but help them to recruit more members.

There were problems with publications and with Soyuzivka, but these were not new problems, having started 40 years ago since the time he had been in the UNA. Why were there problems? When we had many problems and a large reserve, no one had paid attention to the \$500,000, which we were losing in Soyuzivka. If we wanted Soyuzivka, and he was for it, we had to be ready to subsidize it. We need Soyuzivka and the papers. If we did not have them, would we go to strangers looking for Ukrainian or English publications? The papers, he repeated, were an absolute necessity.

He repeated his thanks to those who had elected him at the 35th convention and noted that he would be ready to serve the UNA again, not Canada. He thanked the delegates for their attention.

Wasyl Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, announced from the presidium of the convention that, in the name of all fairness, the microphone should not be used to engage in personal advertising; that all the flyers had been placed on each table for the delegates. He called Gloria Horbaty to give her report.

Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414), advisor thanked the convention for electing her as an advisor, but according to the By-Laws, she had to yield her position to an advisor from Canada. She said that she had been serving since March 2004 in place of Barbara Bachynsky, who had to vacate her office due to illness. She said that her report was included in the packet containing the reports for the 36th Convention and hoped that delegates would familiarize themselves with it. She said that she reported on all of her activity in the past four years, and that her report contained many ideas on how to revive the UNA. She said that she was aware of the many difficult decisions before the convention and that she wanted to be part of the decision-making.

Joseph Hawryluk, (Br. 360), advisor resigned as advisor of the General Assembly.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, announced that there would be a 10-minute intermission, followed by reports from the editors of the UNA publications and questions to the executives and the General Assembly regarding their reports. He also proposed that the various committees have meetings. Room assignments would be announced later.

After the intermission, Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention called Irene Jarosewich, Svoboda Editor-in-Chief, to give her report.

10. REPORT OF SVOBODA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IRENE JAROSEWICH

Irene Jarosewich, Editor-in-Chief of Svoboda, pointed out the financial situation of the UNA, which was already reported. She supported Yaroslav Zavytsky's and Myron Groch's statements that these problems could not be separated from UNA's problems. Publications ran deficits, Soyuzivka was losing money, and there is talk of the UNA losing Canada. All this was painful. The UNA would not be doing very well financially without the publications. The papers were not established so that they would become financially independent. If they had been started from the very beginning as a profit making entity, then they would have had to operate much differently.

The UNA, the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, she said, would have to decide what kind of an organization we should have and our priorities. She continued, that the financial status of the UNA was not necessarily connected with Soyuzivka or was dependent on Soyuzivka or with the publications. It was very painful to hear, she said, that the publications were a financial burden for the UNA. The editorial employees had all told her this, she continued, and that they were not working here just for the money, but worked there because they loved doing it. One should be thinking of the financial condition of the entire organization, she said, not about each component part separately.

The problem of language: discussions on this topic, she said, had already started that day. Perhaps the question of Ukrainian language cut closest to the core of our existence, an important moment of every person's existence. Every person thinks and speaks in a particular "first language," and she said, it would be very complicated when the principal language was constantly set aside. She asked that we have patience with one another, because even in our own language we constantly would have disagreements on correct pronunciation, syntax, correct expression, declension or structure.

She said that normally, she was used to giving the report and then immediately answering questions on the report, but now that the convention format was somewhat changed, she tried to anticipate questions the delegates might have.

11. REPORT OF "THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY" EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ROMA HADZEWCZ

Roma Hadzewycz, Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly, said she would summarize her most important points. Addressing the delegates, she informed them that her written report was included with the convention materials. Changes occurred in the editorial staff; not all for the better. For unrelated reasons the following had left the staff: Ika Koznarska Casanova and Andrij Nynka. Both had left simultaneously, which created a crisis in The Weekly staff, leaving Roma Hadzewycz, alone with a correspondent in Kyiv and one typesetter in the office.

She was able to find someone to work with the editors, by the name of Matthew Dubas. She was happy to have him.

In Kyiv there was a change: Roman Woronowycz, who had worked with The Weekly for many years, had left of his own accord. He had been good, hard working and very talented, making it difficult to part with him. They succeeded in finding a replacement, a young journalist, Zenon Zawada from New York. If we read The Ukrainian Weekly, we could see his articles. This year the Kyiv office celebrated its 15th anniversary. It opened in January of 1991 and had become the first western press bureau in Kyiv, a fact recorded in history, and a fact we should be extremely proud of. Since the time of the previous convention, Larysa Oprysko joined The Weekly staff as a layout artist.

Another great help for our paper was the \$120,000 from the press fund of the paper, donated by our readers, for which the UNA and The Weekly are very thankful.

An interesting fact is the number of UNA materials printed in The Weekly. This includes UNA and Soyuzivka advertising, the value of these pages is significant and beneficial to the UNA.

Another small fact, she continued, was that members paid \$10 less for subscription than non-members, questioning who made up the difference. It should be the UNA; (members paid \$45 instead of the non-member cost of \$55).

About marketing: to emphasize what Al Kachkowski said, we needed a plan. He spoke about a plan for Canada, we needed one for UNA as well. We need a plan regarding advertising. If we did not have a plan for marketing and did not have people to implement it, then we could not increase the number of our readers, the number of UNA members, or the number of guests at Soyuzivka. We would have to realize, she said, about the need to advertise and promote our UNA, Soyuzivka, our papers, not only in our publications, but also outside our publications. She said the delegates could help us in this matter by spreading the word about the UNA and everything that it did.

She thanked her colleagues from The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, adding that she and her colleagues at Svoboda cooperated well together. She thanked I. Jarosewich for her support.

She also thanked the members of the General Assembly, members of the committee which oversaw the publications, specifically, Taras Szmagala, Sr. for being there on many occasions listening and coming up with advice.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, thanked both of the editors-in-chief for their comprehensive reports. He added that in the 50 years of managing a Ukrainian radio program in Detroit, he had on many occasions relied on material, especially news, which came from the UNA papers, even before the Internet came into being, and continues to this day. He was very grateful for the work done by our newspapers.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, called on the president of the UNA, Stefan Kaczaraj, for his report.

7. CONCLUSION: REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STEFAN KACZARAJ – PRESIDENT

Stefan Kaczaraj, president, acknowledged the multitude of problems facing the UNA. And unfortunately, the UNA's problems are not unique as many fraternal organizations are struggling to redefine themselves and compete in today's market. "Until we reduce significantly our expenditures related to the resort and publications, it will not be possible to put in place a marketing plan to build a block of profitable new business that will be significant to guarantee a financially healthy future of the UNA." These are words spoken by UNA's actuary and wise advice.

Many problems facing the UNA today were inherited – One major issue is the falling of UNA's reserves year after year. However, at this juncture compounding our problems are the enormous costs that are impacting our bottom line and these must be brought under control. S. Kaczaraj was not advocating the closing or merging of any of UNA's publications, nor was he advocating the selling of Soyuzivka, however, solutions must be found.

S. Kaczaraj emphasized the need for people not to compare the UNA to any of the credit unions. These are two very different institutions with very different missions and goals. He did however mention the fact that UNA donates over \$1,000,000 annually for the benefit of the Ukrainian community which is 6.5% greater than that of the donations made by one credit union, whose donations amounted to .24% of their assets.

The newspapers are a critical part of the UNA and we must do everything in our power to continue providing the community with excellent quality print, however, at a smaller cost to UNA. Meetings were planned with I. Jarosewich and R. Hadzewycz and staff for their input and ideas as to how we could accomplish our goals.

The UNA's publications of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly and Soyuzivka are UNA fraternal benefits, however, they are here serving the entire Ukrainian community. Given the enormous costs of the publications and Soyuzivka, the community also has an obligation to help support the newspapers and Soyuzivka. We cannot continue status quo and expect to survive.

The revenue section of my report shows, payment of premiums has decreased over the past four years. Interest rates have been falling in the last four years and UNA's invest income has much room for improvement. Although our bonds are highly rated, interest rates are not as high as they were years ago. In previous years, UNA was able to yield 7% interest on our bond investments, where currently we are yielding 4% - 4.5% interest. Our costs are increasing coupled with decreasing sales of life insurance automatically create a deficit. Yet we are still questioned as to the lack of dividend payments to UNA members.

Dividends are paid when a company is making money not when it is losing money. He emphasized all corporations, whether IBM or General Motors paid dividends only when they were making money. Our reserves have fallen to \$4.5 million and it would be financially irresponsible and detrimental to UNA to pay any dividends to members at this time.

There are however, positive things to report. The UNA has a number of great organizers for which we are very grateful. However we need to increase their numbers. Also, we have begun contracting with professional salespersons but it is a slow process.

Continuing, his report, S. Kaczaraj reported on the Canadian dollar which had recently gone up and recalled when it had been very low. He was asked why UNA transferred money from Canada to the U.S. The goal is to transfer the money when the Canadian dollar is up, however, no one can predict when or if the dollar will go up and when it will go down. The point is to transfer the money gradually, a little at a time when it is rising. Eventually, it could happen that the two currencies are at par.

Changing the subject to the UNA publications of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, S. Kaczaraj informed the convention preparations were being made to have the newspapers on the internet by the end of the year. The option of charging for this service was being explored. There is a large market in Ukraine, approximately one million Ukrainians in Italy, half a million in Spain and Ukrainian communities in Portugal, Australia and Canada. Unfortunately, Canadians have The Ukrainian Weekly and/or Svoboda delivered to them two to three weeks late. Having the papers on the internet would be a great advantage and help lower the cost of the printing of both newspapers.

Soyuzivka has improved as is evident to everyone present at the convention. It is cleaner, the dining room has been renovated and looking at financial reports, there is an increase in room income and other operations. He noted this is a nice improvement. The problem however, remained that the costs are also increasing, namely the cost of liability insurance. Our deficits in the four years, increased to \$2,335,000, an unbelievable sum. He said we do have plans to transfer Soyuzivka into a foundation and repeated what he had said previously; If the community would like to have Soyuzivka and was always saying "we love Soyuzivka" then the community should support the foundation. If 5,000 Ukrainians from the diaspora would donate \$100 annually they would be helping us out and this money would be tax deductible to them. Whether it is the publications or Soyuzivka, the community should be supporting it.

Svoboda, he reminded us is the oldest Ukrainian-language newspaper in the world. There is no other like it. The Ukrainian Weekly had come into existence and began publishing during the Ukrainian Famine in 1933. This had been done for the community. There were rumors of people subscribing to the newspapers and then passing it on to others. This he heard was happening in Florida and it is shameful! A subscription is \$45 or \$55 a year and in this modern day, it is not a lot of money. As we are patriots and want the newspapers to exist for many years, we have to support them. We need the community to cooperate with us in order for the papers to survive.

The merging of UNA with the Ukrainian Fraternal Association was discussed between the UNA executives and Yaroslav Gavur, president of UFA and their executives. UFA has about \$10 million in assets, administrative costs of \$450,000, an actuary and other expenses. If a merger were to occur, these expenses would be eliminated and favorable for UNA. However, in order for a merge to occur, the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance must give their approval.

The UFA was willing to merge with UNA and the previous issue of name changing was no longer a point of contention. Further discussions were being planned.

S. Kaczaraj spoke about the UNA office building. The income from rents has decreased, with 6,000 square feet of office space available for rent. The building has a total of 64,000 square feet of office space.

As president, S. Kaczaraj traveled to various locations and events representing UNA. He traveled to Cleveland, Connecticut, twice to Trenton, to Montreal, Soyuzivka, Washington, D.C., Chicago and New York. There is criticism the UNA Executives do not wish to travel. This is simply not true. When taking into consideration the cost of the trip, air fare, hotel, etc. approximately \$1,000 per trip per person is spent to meet with 6 or 7 members. The question arose is this money well spent? What are the benefits in meeting with a handful of members? We simply made a decision. It would make more sense to have the local UNA representatives organize a community affair where a presentation could be made about UNA. We need to educate people about UNA, who we are, how we support the community and how we help the individual and families with our financial products.

Earlier S. Kaczaraj spoke of inherited problems, among them the issue of returned and outstanding checks. According to UNA By-Laws, in years past, these returned and outstanding checks would be written off UNA books. However, in our tri-annual audits by the State of NJ, we were informed by the state auditors, the checks, which amounted to approximately \$180,000, were to be escheated to their respective states. This was a very difficult task and required the skills of a detective who we found in our long time employee Daria Semegen. With her sleuthing skills her job is to trace, track, find and bring each and every check to a satisfactory conclusion is extremely time consuming. This and other behind the scenes work done by UNA employees, such as cleaning out policy loans that were granted and secured by policies needed much attention and take an enormous amount of time to clean up. Dealing with the regulators and much red tape is something not seen but done on a daily basis and is an important function of UNA.

The deficit, he said, really worries him, keeping him and the other executives up at night. However, we will move upward and forward and will cope with these problems. Our only choice is to move ahead and we are beginning to move in the right direction. S. Kaczaraj thanked everyone for their attention and would be happy to answer any questions.

12. DISCUSSION ON REPORTS AND THEIR ACCEPTANCE

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention and Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, explained the rules for carrying on the discussion.

Bohdan Odezynskyj (Br. 216), said that he wanted to thank the editors of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and the Almanac, which carried interesting and well-documented articles.

Lew Bodnar (Br. 131), addressed the UNA community, saying that as we had

opened this session, this was the first time in history that we were on our native land Soyuzivka, but, he noted, that it was the first time in history that we were holding our convention in such small numbers. We had gathered here in order to solve many problems, but we were being given little time to speak. Stefan Kaczaraj, shared his opinions. L. Bodnar read something and received a few letters from a Walter Prochorenko which alarmed him. People had gotten many letters. They had never heard anything about this man, his contributions to the community, or writings in the press. Stefan Kaczaraj was asked for an explanation about this issue.

When L. Bodnar had arrived in this country, he continued, he had joined the UNA from patriotic motives. The new immigration was highly educated. He had many friends among them, but they were brought up without the same kind of patriotism his immigration had. For them, everything is business. He had recruited a few members, but it was not easy. They would have to be persuaded. Our applications were not in Ukrainian; they wanted to know what they were signing; often they did not understand the text. He suggested that we have the policies in Ukrainian. He wondered why we, in our Ukrainian offices, could not have things written parallel in Ukrainian.

Also, he added that we needed more advertising at the Ukrainian radio programs in Chicago. He considered our papers to be of high quality and thanked R. Hadzewycz for her courtesy in printing materials about Chicago. Other papers, unfortunately even Svoboda, refused to print them. He suggested that we write about things like this so that people become informed what was happening in these localities.

Addressing Stefan Kaczaraj, he referred to the subject of the Soyuzivka foundation. He said that he was apprehensive about that idea. By creating this foundation, we should be careful so that we do not wind up with people who would say that times are difficult, we have to sell this property.

He said that he was very pleased with Yaroslav Zaviysky's report, though it was not written, who reported on his work and made a positive impression. M. Lysko's report was excellent, and he thought it would be worthwhile that during such meetings, that every advisor, auditor and executive report how many new members they had recruited in four years. He was amazed at Andrij Skyba, a candidate for vice-president, who as an advisor, had done nothing in Chicago. He mentioned that Andrij Skyba was invited to attend meetings of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and he did not attend even once. He criticized A. Skyba for criticizing the work of the executives. He asked why this had not been done at the meeting of the executives during the four years and that we should be thanking them for their work. He thanked everyone for their attention.

Roman Kuropas (Br. 20), said that he was pleased to come to Soyuzivka. He was glad that the convention was held on the piece of real estate which he had first seen when he had arrived in America in 1954. He said, there were fewer of us; that we were here in order to grow; we, the UNA, had not been doing our job. In the 1970's our membership had reached 70,000 and had aspirations for 100,000. He thought that we had to concentrate on every Ukrainian, regardless from which generation and that we had to awaken them to take pride in their heritage. The press should help in this endeavor, to concentrate more on the youth, sports organizations, and to give the maturing youngsters a rock to hang on to.

Directing attention to our website, he said that it was one of the best, and asked the audience how many of us had been writing to our senators and congressmen about the fact that the UNA convention was being held at Soyuzivka? He said that we were in America and comprise the best citizens serving America. Our veterans had died for this country. We should not forget that we are Ukrainians. His children, born in America, have that Ukrainian spirit. "Glory to Ukraine and to the best of our ability, work for Ukraine here." He thanked everyone for their attention.

Wolodymyr Kozicky (Br. 8) expressed greetings from the SUMA Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in Yonkers, N.Y. He had a question directed at Roma Lisovich concerning the financial report i.e. that the UNA had hired an investment specialist.

He was of the opinion, given the funds the UNA had at its disposal, that it should be consulting with Ukrainian financial institutions, which have a lot of information at their disposal about rates and other things in order to save on investment consultant fees.

As for the foundation, which Stefan Kaczaraj had mentioned, i.e. that our institutions should support it, he agreed with it. "We should keep what we have. The last few years we had sent millions of dollars to Ukraine. Though it was necessary, we should not forget that our children and our future is here in America. Therefore, we should be appealing to them more so."

As far as the publications were concerned, he said that he loved reading them. Praise and honor to them. We should, however, be giving more attention to advertising, as it was income. We should insist that Ukrainian credit unions place more of their ads in our publications. He assured us, that at the convention of the Congress of Ukrainian Credit Unions he personally would advise that credit unions do the same.

Tymko Butrej (Br. 164), said that he would not praise anyone. He directed his criticism at the leadership, including the president, who had given the executives the mandate to disband branches. He asked, who did not love Soyuzivka. Everyone loved it, but that we had spent millions out of UNA's own funds. Something had to be done. We had to consult with people who understood these matters. Referring to the active branches, they should be asking them, what they were doing that had made them successful.

George Soltys (Br. 327), said he would begin by directing questions to our press. Four years ago, the problem with Svoboda had been that it could not be a daily, but could be a weekly. It was hoped that all problems would be solved; but they were not and we still have them. He wanted to know what changes had taken place as a result of changing from a daily to a weekly. He had been intrigued by the expression of I. Jarosewich, Svoboda Editor-in-Chief, that the paper was not an income-producing entity. He would be interested in knowing what approaches would be used to make it income producing. As far as The Ukrainian Weekly was concerned, he defended that it was unfair to blame the paper for things which were not their fault and that the paper should be given credit for its accomplishments.

Second question related to the press, but was directed to Stefan Kaczaraj, who said

that when our press goes on the Internet, then we could cut costs and we could make money. Although he didn't know much about this field, he would like an explanation. He knew from reading different papers in Ukraine on the Internet, e.g. Postup, Den', Ukrayinska Pravda, and others, that he was not charged any fee, and that he has the same Internet access to BBC, CNN and other press agencies and no one pays any fees on these sites, aside from the internet subscription fee.

Addressing Eugene Oscislowski, he said that we should not be reducing branches, but that he agreed with him in this matter.

Vladimir Bakum (Br. 172), said that at all costs we should hold on to our publications and Soyuzivka. Both publications were extraordinary in both languages. The editors were excellent. He liked our contacts with Ukraine via resident correspondents there. He liked Peter Chasto's page about language, which he thought was needed. He liked the letters to the editor section and thought it was important. He said we needed news from Ukraine as Ukrainians, regardless of the fact that we had been living in America a long time and feeling the effects of assimilation. He liked and praised the way The Ukrainian Weekly was run and praised R. Hadzewycz. He thought her staff was excellent and that we should hold on to them.

Regarding Soyuzivka, he admitted that we should learn something from the Mohonk Mountain House experience. It was located in the same area and open as a year round resort. People visit it on weekends. He said that 20 years ago this resort, had been experiencing enormous deficits, facing bankruptcy. The state urged that it be sold; but it managed to turn their situation around. They developed various weekend theme programs: such as a chocolate weekend, a weekend devoted to music, or a "mystery week." where authors of detective novels would attend and organize the program. Today they offer many different themes for their customers.

Since he was a professor at New Paltz State University, he said Mohonk Mountain House had arranged a cooperative program where the university would teach foreign language courses on weekends using Mohonk as the location. For 15 years he personally had been teaching French on weekends there. That was the way they had attracted customers. In one sense they would learn a new language; on the other side of it, they would pay \$250 for one room for one night. They had found a manager, a specialist with an assistant, well paid, who knew whom to attract and how to organize the programs. These people had put Mohonk House on such a high level that the "New York Times" had been writing articles about it and now it is well known in eastern U.S.

He thought that the same thing could be done with Soyuzivka. It had already taken steps in that direction. Here we had graduation balls and proms. It was important to spread information about Soyuzivka. He noticed that the prices of meals had risen on Father's Day to \$25. That was too expensive for retired people. To attract that steady permanent Ukrainian clientele, who are not earning a lot, the price would have to be lower. He advised that this would tend to attract more people. We had to save it at all costs; and that \$600,000 was a colossal deficit, yet we dared not lose it.

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, resumed the floor, and called the next speaker.

Bohdan Hryshchshyn (Br. 264), said that he had been listening to the reports and the problems that they would focus on. He thought that it was important to have a discussion on Soyuzivka. He asked the question, whether the plan to effect changes at Soyuzivka was ready and who would be carrying it out, namely, who would be preparing it and discussing it.

Bohdan Kukuruza (Br. 399), said that we were speaking about problems, but he had not heard anything about solutions. He continued, that Yaroslav Zaviysky had said what the problem had been and how, he thought the matter could be improved. That was definitely one of the good reports. We should be coming up with concrete suggested solutions.

He was of the opinion that new people brought new ideas. Not wishing to offend anyone, this was his third convention, and he saw mostly the same people, very few new people. He suggested maybe to change the By-Laws to impose term limits of two to three terms of office on elected positions to encourage new people with new ideas.

He said that there was a usual cycle of growth and decline, and now there should be growth, but it had not taken place. Although he did not know how, there had to be a way to get these new people into the convention who would return home and work with new immigrants like Myron Pylypiak. That, he said, was important.

He referred to a conversation with Lev Bodnar about post World War II events, when the political-patriotic immigration had been arriving in the U.S. That was when J. Padoch had come to office. He had done tremendous work for the UNA. In one month, according to L. Bodnar's account, he had enrolled 500 members. Bohdan Kukuruza repeated that something had to be done; that perhaps, we should be changing the products we were selling, something that would be attractive to new immigrants and which they could buy.

He returned to the subject of the Ukrainian and English language application mentioned by L. Bodnar. He thought, it was difficult when we were dealing with new immigrants, with only an English language application and that they would not sign anything, which they did not understand.

He said that Christine Kozak, at the last convention in Chicago and also now, had emphasized recruiting new members to leadership. He said she was all for it. In Chicago they had tried to get younger people to the General Assembly, but with young people, the case was that they were absent from meetings, were not writing reports, and had no excuses. C. Kozak is always looking for younger members for the branch secretary position.

Olga Maruszczak (Br. 82) said she was pleased to read some of the very good reports i.e. Martha Lysko, Zenon Holubec, Stefan Kaczaraj and Roma Lisovich. Olga Maruszczak agrees with national secretary Christine Kozak that it is necessary to add younger members to the General Assembly. In Chicago, they did in fact support younger members to the General Assembly, but unfortunately some of these young members did not attend the yearly meetings, did not write their annual report and had no excuses for doing same. Olga Maruszczak spoke to that young delegate who said

that UNA will not last another 20 years. She believes that UNA was, is and will be!

Michael Koziupa (Br. 76) first said that the Internet would ruin our newspapers. The reason for starting the newspapers was, he thought, to advertise Batko Soyuz's activities. I. Jarosewich had stated that our paper was not designed for profit. It was there to serve the UNA to advertise and sell our policies.

Second, he said that we did have good sales people and the best way would be for newcomers to sell to newcomers, as in Seattle or Philadelphia. The new immigrants had success. He also suggested that we establish a website to explain our work and establish contacts with the new immigrants via the Internet.

Third, as an employee of Selfreliance Credit Union, he explained that our two organizations were similar where they had members of Ukrainian extraction and work for the benefit of the community.

Stefan Lysiak (Br. 283), asked the editors if it were possible to have a section devoted to legal problems. Many new immigrants arriving in the U.S. and Canada have immigration problems, were involved with buying real estate and other matters. It would be good to have information about these matters.

He also said that he was a young secretary, who accepted his assignment a year ago. He was appreciative of advice he had been frequently receiving from Nadia Salabay, an employee at the home office. Since it was too costly for executives to travel to various localities, he suggested, that meetings be organized in one common spot in various localities, where someone from the home office would come and explain about the work to be done.

He said that many older secretaries were not attracting younger people.

Wasył Szeremeta (Br. 247/347) thanked the executives for their work of the past four years. He said that it was very easy to criticize them from where the delegates were sitting. Our job, he said, was to give praise where it was due and criticize where it was warranted. We, the members of the 36th UNA Convention, were the highest authoritative body of the UNA. He read from minutes of the previous convention, which had been handed out to us today. On page 147 is a question that would be directed to the entire executive body. A resolution had been voted on and passed, that the executives had to erect a monument in honor of Patriarch Mstyslav within one year after the end of the 35th Regular Convention. The resolution had passed unanimously and he also read a recommendation to hold the regular UNA convention at Soyuzivka, and that recommendation passed by a majority vote, 11 against and 10 abstained.

It was curious to him that in some reports, it was stated that the monument to Patriarch Mstyslav was not erected at Soyuzivka because we did not know if Soyuzivka would still exist. He noted that we had created this convention not knowing whether Soyuzivka would still exist – this answer, according to him, was spineless. He said that Patriarch Mstyslav had great meaning for him as a Christian, and he occupied an important place in our history. Therefore his question was: Were the executives supposed to obey our decisions or would they do as they please?

Vera Krywyj (Br. 174), said that there was no argument that we had to thank our executives for the great work they were doing. Criticism was necessary. She suggested that we help as needed with advertising, as one of the new immigrants who had been living here 16 years. Knowing that there were many new immigrants in credit unions, she urged that we advertise somehow. That we should target all the new immigrants, compose a letter to each one of them so that they understood what the UNA was all about.

Also, she said, that children of the third wave should be helping. They first should understand and appreciate what their parents had accomplished. We had to draw them into the UNA.

She personally thanked Nadia Salabay, who had been available to each one of us and also apologized for her outburst at Taras Szmagala Sr. about the use of Ukrainian language. She also encouraged everyone working for the UNA to learn Ukrainian and use it among Ukrainians.

Martha Lysko, first vice-president, announced the names and members of the various Committees:

The Petitions Committee: Zenowia Serafyn (Br. 175), Julian Pishko (Br. 385), Ulana Prociuk (Br. 397), Luba Keske (Br. 257/307), Irene Pryjma (Br. 292) were to meet in the evening, Room 3 in the Main house; time of meeting would be decided by the members of the committee.

The Secretaries Committee: Judy Hawryluk (Br. 360), Anna Burij (Br. 402), Eli Matiash (Br. 120), Oksana Trytjak (Br. 25), Motria Milanytch (Br. 450), Michael Zacharko (Br. 349) were to meet here in meeting hall at 6 p.m.

The Elections Committee: Christine Brodyn (Br. 27), Bohdan Odezynskyj (Br. 216), Nadia Salabay (Br. 155), Ihor Kobil (Br. 412), Cecilia Kachkowski (Br. 444), Bohdan Doboshchak (Br. 59), Stefan Lysiak (Br. 283), Oksana Koziak (Br. 47), Oksana Lew (Br. 5), Roman Kuropas (Br. 20) and Andrew Hrechak (Br. 76) would meet in the library of the Main building, the time to be decided.

The Resolutions Committee: Edward Melnyczuk (Br. 234), Wasył Szeremeta (Br. 247/347), George Soltys (Br. 327), Maya Lew (Br. 5) and Olya Czerkas (Br. 381) were to meet in Kyiv Room #2.

The Financial Committee: Wolodymyr Kozicky (Br. 8), Gerald Tysiak (Br. 13), Gloria Paschen (Br. 125/220), Michael Hrycyk (Br. 161), Joseph Chabon (Br. 242) were to meet in the Veselka hall at 6 p.m.

The Press Committee: Zenon Wasyłkewych (Br. 174), Roma Hadzewycz (Br. 287/340), Omelan Twardowsky (Br. 214), Vera Krywyj (Br. 174) were to meet at the Vorokhta – 2 building at 6 p.m.

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, proposed to the convention to continue discussions on reports and he thanked Maya Lew for giving up her turn to take part in the discussion, because her question had been answered. He asked Andrij Skyba to the microphone.

Andrij Skyba, (Br. 399), advisor said that he wanted to emphasize the fact that all reports had been very good. He also heard some critical responses. He asked that the delegates read his report, which could be found in the booklet. He said that the discussion revolved around the problem of attracting new immigrants to the UNA. We had been talking about this matter for years. Other fraternalists have also had difficulties and that it was no wonder that things weren't going well. Why didn't the newcomers know much about the UNA? Without a marketing plan we couldn't do anything. If they didn't know about us, how could they buy our products. He said that there was a lot of talk with few concrete plans, but he believed that things would change for the better.

The bilingual application: he said, that this question had been discussed many times. The answer had been that the application must be translated by court appointed translators which were expensive. It was also told that each application then has to be approved by each State and Province where UNA is licensed to sell insurance He was wondering whether it had been decided that the financial costs would be excessive.

Gerald Tysiak (Br. 13) said that he wanted to know what the advisors had been doing during the past four years. He recommended that they should be advertising what they wanted to do. He also proposed that we should be working together with credit unions. People wanted information about financial matters. The new immigrants come to credit unions and received various consultations, even with the immigration office. He didn't see us being involved in these kinds of things. We had to work more closely with the credit unions so that we could approach them to advertise our products. He then thanked everyone.

Taras Szmagala, Sr., chairman of the convention, took over the presidium duties, and announced that answers to questions on the reports arising during this discussion would be given tomorrow during the morning session.

Paul Fuga (Br. 269) adamantly stated that the next convention should take place at Soyuzivka again. Therefore Soyuzivka could continue to stay alive for another few years and this way we would be supporting it.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention concluded the session.

Saturday, May 27, 2006, 9:30 a.m.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, announced the resumption of the convention agenda, i.e. answering questions arising out of yesterday's discussion on the reports. He proceeded to state the order of answers: first, the advisors would be called to answer any questions directed at them, then the auditors, and so on to the executives in reverse order, ending with concluding answers by the president. After answers to questions, there would be the acceptance of the reports. Next on the agenda would be the report of the By-Laws Committee. The committee would give the convention suggested amendments, which would have to be voted on because the changes in By-Laws would affect the number of candidates for primary elections. He hoped item No. 12 on the agenda – answers to questions on reports of members of the General Assembly, would be concluded by 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. He also announced that the Resolutions Committee would meet during lunch behind the exhibit.

The convention chairman also called attention to the fact that information flyers of Walter Prochorenko were available in the guest section and that Walter Prochorenko had intended to run for office. His membership status was evaluated by the Credentials Committee, which ruled that he was not a member in good standing.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, repeated Taras Szmagala Sr.'s instructions in Ukrainian, cautioning the speakers, in the name of fairness, to refrain from electioneering and proceed with the agenda by asking advisors one by one to answer any questions directed to them. Only Eugene Oscislawski had questions directed to him.

Eugene Oscislawski, (Br. 234), advisor, answered questions about the merging of branches and what could be done to save them. In 1994, he was elected district chairman and his experience had been that he would receive a notice which branches would be merging. There would be no prior consultation with him, who had some responsibility in this matter. He also said that in order to save branches, we should be working together and that decisions should not be thrust upon us without our knowledge. Advisors should be enlisted to help, he said, and that advisors sometimes wanted to help, but that the higher ups were not giving them assignments involving branch mergers and other matters. He was of the opinion that advisors could do much more if they had been given responsibilities in the name of UNA.

With due respect to secretaries, he said, we should consider placing an age limit on secretaries, assuming that they were 80 and still active, they should continue, but if not, they should be grooming a successor. Every secretary planning to retire, according to the By-Laws, should prepare someone to take over the branch. If we had a list of potential secretary changes, we could invite these prospective secretaries who want to work, to take courses in order to learn what is involved. Many people, he said, did know about the commissions and the financial rewards a secretary receives when he recruits new members.

Irene Jarosewich, Editor-in-Chief of Svoboda, answered the question about the changes in the paper as a result of change from a daily to a weekly. It involved reduction in the number of editors and employees. They had changed from a manual production system to a computerized system. She said that they had not updated their equipment due to cost cutting.

The paper was attempting to produce income. They hired an advertising manager, Maria Oscislawski who had been doing a wonderful job. According to the decisions of the 34th Convention in Toronto, the paper had significantly cut its cost of publication by expense reduction. The paper, was the UNA's advertising arm and advertising had always been expensive. By cutting the expenses of the publication, we were cutting costs of the advertising and marketing for the UNA. To increase income for the UNA, we would have to increase membership and insurance policies, but not by cutting its marketing tool. How would we advertise the UNA's work if not by the newspapers. If we had to cut the expenses of the paper then we would. The UNA had chosen to develop a community through its publications. We sent papers to retirees in Canada, people

in Texas and Ukraine. The \$55 did not cover all of the costs, including the mailing cost to Canada. She was aware that if someone lived in a city where there were many Ukrainians, such as in New York, Chicago or Philadelphia, you could get a Ukrainian paper without charge, but not if you lived in a place where there were few Ukrainians, not near a credit union or a Ukrainian restaurant. That is where the UNA bore a huge cost. Svoboda was being mailed to 17 countries of the world and advertised the UNA in the U.S.A. and Canada. That was its greatest value. We carried, she said, the moral expense of this worldwide community formed by subscribers. She agreed with Stefan Kaczaraj that it should not be the sole burden of the UNA. As far as publishing the paper on the Internet was concerned, she did not think it was time for it yet.

Not related to the report, I. Jarosewich invited children, descendants, and relatives of editors, former editors, or employees of Svoboda or The Ukrainian Weekly to come to R. Hadzewycz, as the editors would gladly take a group photo tomorrow before the bust of the Rev. Hryhoriy Hrushka.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly, reaffirmed the points made by I. Jarosewich that the papers were a marketing tool of the UNA, not just an expense. Her complaint was that we had been underutilizing the papers and did not write enough about the UNA. Not just ads, but articles where we actually write what we do in the community. She picked up the points made by the president of the National Fraternal Congress of America, that fraternalists were very modest and did not talk about themselves. We should be using the papers more, not just ads but write about what we really do for the community as a whole. She was aware about mailing problems, explained that Svoboda was mailed out second class without fail on Thursday morning and The Ukrainian Weekly on Friday morning if papers were delivered late, then the post office should hear about it.

If anyone had problems with receiving the papers on time, they should contact Mary Pendzola, at the home office. This week Walter Honcharyk and Mary Pendzola, manager for subscriptions, met with the postal officials to discuss the problems we have.

The Internet question, she informed us, was somewhat different with The Ukrainian Weekly than with Svoboda. It had great potential for The Ukrainian Weekly to place the paper's full text on the Internet for a fee. It wouldn't be completely free. She felt that when someone already subscribed to the paper, he should have free access to the Internet version. She had heard from many readers in Canada, where we had lost many subscribers because they got the papers three to four weeks late, that they would gladly subscribe to the Internet version and pay for it to receive it on time.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, asked whether there were any questions for the auditors; there were none; he asked R. Lisovich to answer questions directed to her.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer, answered George Soltys's questions about costs of placing the papers on the Internet, given that he could read free of charge many newspapers in the world in various languages. R. Lisovich explained that every paper on the Internet gives short summaries of news, but if anyone wants to read about a subject in a more detailed form, then he would have to pay for the full text. All ethnic papers charge for full texts, even The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. The Kyiv Post charges \$90 annually for their Internet publications and, she said, that we could have a combination of this type soon.

Whether the UNA consulted with credit unions, as asked by Walter Kozicky, R. Lisovich answered that yes the UNA does consult at times and that Stefan Kaczaraj was a director of one of these credit unions. We could benefit only from general advice, regarding our investments she said. However, that was not enough, because to deal with the volume of investments that we handled, the UNA needed professional asset and portfolio managers, who watched our portfolio daily. The kind of advice we had been receiving for the last 30 years was not enough.

To answer the question whether we cooperated with the credit unions, she thought that it was a good idea. Already the UNA had such a meeting in our building. Michael Koziupa together with Stefan Welhash had organized this meeting. She also noted that we should understand that we and Selfreliance FCU were competitors. We have the same or similar types of mortgage loans for our clients. Therefore, what we do together was limited.

She answered also questions about the "older" and "younger" UNA members, about encouraging and training younger members in districts and about selling our products.

She concluded saying that she was taken aback by one younger delegate who said that their district had sold an average of two policies in four years. He was pessimistic as to our survival. In response, she said, we in the district had to be bringing in younger members and teaching them how to sell the policies, as she urged everyone to take on this challenge of the young person and proposed that every person on this convention floor bring in a younger member to maintain the existence of our organization.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, asked Christine Kozak to the floor.

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary answered several questions: first, about secretaries' compensation. There were two types of compensation. First, was commission on the policy which one sold, whether he was a professional, a secretary or an organizer. There are renewal commissions, when the policy is renewed. The other type of compensation was the refund of secretary's expenses. As R. Lisovich had said before, from 1998 to 2001 we had paid over \$78,000 to secretaries who had not recruited one member for over four years. It was impossible, she said, to be paying out when secretaries are not recruiting members. We had stopped that practice, and now require that a secretary first give us one member before we send him his refund of expenses. Then we raised the number to 3 policies, before we sent the secretary his refund of expenses. The refund of expenses comes from the members' annual premiums, which the home office collects.

She explained the question about bilingual applications. Our older applications were in two languages, Ukrainian and English. At that time some members had filled out the applications in Ukrainian. As we were audited every 3 years by the state, the auditors would bring us an application from 1934 and asked why was it filled out in Ukrainian? We had to have applications filled out in English. Even when the questions

had been in two languages, the answers on the applications had to be in English.

She also said that in September 2005, included with her monthly newsletter, she had sent secretaries an application translated into Ukrainian, which they could use.

She said that the UNA planned to issue a new rate book that incorporated a new mortality table. At that time, the UNA would introduce new products based on the new mortality table and then it would also consider the introduction of the two-language application if it is possible and the costs are within reason.

On the subject of branch management, she said that we had to merge some branches because they were getting smaller. Before every merger she had consulted with the local district chairman, Alexander Serafyn, Nicholas Diakiwsky, Nicholas Fil, and discussed the matter. We attempted to find the best people to take over the new branches.

On the question, how many members were recruited by the executives and the members of the General Assembly in the past four years, she answered as follows: Martha Lysko – 22, Al Kachkowski – 1; Zenon Holubec – 7; Yaroslav Zaviysky – 1; Alexander Serafyn – 5; Eugene Oscislawski – 24; Stefan Hawrysz – 46; Wasył Luchkiw – 1; Myron Pylypiak – 71; Wasył Liscenesky – 0; Pavlo Prinko – 4; Andrij Skyba – 2; Michael Kuropas – 0; Myron Groch – 11; Gloria Horbaty – 15.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president answered questions regarding W. Prochorenko and said that he had mentioned that the UNA had spent large subsidies to our publications on our operations and wanted to reduce our costs. They had hired W. Prochorenko, as a consultant, for six months in order to help us in this matter. One of our members had informed us that he had received literature from W. Prochorenko using our company envelopes, stamps, employees, logos of the UNA, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, our resources including the UNA database, and our assets in order to send letters to delegates. Nowhere in the business world, he said, was this acceptable. Whether in GM or IBM, you would be fired for this. No one had the right to use the company resources, where he worked to use them to advertise his candidacy for an elective office. We had called him into the office, and in the presence of R. Lisovich, we showed him the literature to which he had no explanations. And we told him that we would no longer require his services.

The second question regarding a foundation would be answered and explained as to what our course of action should be, when we discuss it in No. 14 on the agenda: Plans for the development of Soyuzivka.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer, answered the question regarding the monument in honor of Patriarch Mstyslav, which was to be erected to fulfill the resolutions of the last two conventions. She said that this subject was very dear to her, since she is Orthodox, but that the UNA was following priorities. It required that we erect a bronze monument to reflect the dignity of the person honored in a way that it remained permanent. It could not be a temporary venture. Until we would be sure that Soyuzivka remained with us, we could not proceed. Until the state allowed us to make all the changes that we wanted in order to retain Soyuzivka, we had to withhold starting the project.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, said that there were two giants in the 20th century, two leaders of the Ukrainian people, one was Patriarch Mstyslav and the other Patriarch Joseph. We all honored them as great Ukrainian patriots and leaders, not only of their Churches, but also of the Ukrainian nation. Let their memory live forever in our hearts, in the hearts of our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, forever and ever. God willing.

Tymko Butrej (Br. 164) said that his question had not been answered. He repeated it, "Who authorized the Executive Committee to liquidate branches or to merge them?"

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, said that the questions repeated by Tymko Butrej had already been answered.

Bohdan Kukuza (Br. 399) reminded us that yesterday he asked a question about limits as to how many terms of office a person could be elected? Was it one, two, three or a lifetime?

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, said that as far as the By-Laws were concerned they did not set any limits on the number of office terms to which a person could be elected.

Michael Koziupa (Br. 76) asked how often did the Board of Directors, meaning the Executives plus the advisors, meet?

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary answered that the General Assembly normally met once a year and the Executive Committee met four times a year, and the auditors would be invited to the meetings. The General Assembly actually met three times in the four-year period, since it did not meet during the convention year unless a special meeting was necessary. She gave a report of attendance of excused and non-excused absences on members of the General Assembly, saying that it was in her written report. Absent with no excuse were: Myron Pylypiak, twice; Wasył Liscenesky, once; Pavlo Prinko, once. Excused absences included: Zenon Holubec, due to health reasons, once; Yaroslav Zaviysky, once; Eugene Oscislawski, once; Andrij Skyba, once; Michael Kuropas, once.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, thanked the participants in discussion and asked Zenon Holubec to announce acceptance of the reports and a vote of confidence, absolutoria.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358), auditor said that they had listened to the reports of the members of the General Assembly and heard a comprehensive discussion on them, questions from delegates and answers from the members of the General Assembly. Although it was not listed on the agenda, there was a tradition that after the completion of reports and the discussion on them, the Auditing Committee would propose to grant the departing office holders a vote of confidence.

Motion: In the name of the Auditing Committee I make a motion that the delegates vote to grant the departing members of the General Assembly of the UNA a vote of confidence.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, asked if anyone seconded the motion. There was a second, but his name was not announced. The motion carried with two abstentions.

13. REPORT OF THE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained the activity of the By-Laws Committee, one of the most important functions of this committee is to address the rules that govern our association. Prior to this convention, there had been two meetings of two different committees following the rules outlined in our By-Laws. Amendments to By-Laws were submitted and considered first by a pre-convention By-Laws Committee and then the second time by a convention By-Laws committee. Only the By-Laws that had passed both Committees would be presented. These would be recommended by the By-Laws Committee for ratification by the convention. The chairman of our By-Laws committee was Longin Staruch.

Longin Staruch (Br. 172), chairman of the By-Laws Committee answered that there were four proposals and four recommendations for the By-Laws changes, and three for the manual changes. The By-Laws Committee consisted of five persons: Longin Staruch (Br. 172), chairman; Bohdan Doboszczak (Br. 59), secretary; three members: Oksana Lopatynska (Br. 194), Nicholas Bobeczko (Br. 102) and Alexander Kizak (Br. 465). The last two members, regrettably had not shown up for meetings.

First Proposal: to eliminate the position of director for Canada. The reasoning behind this was that UNA business in Canada had grown so small that it would be deemed not necessary to maintain such a high ranking position to represent Canada.

Alexander Serafyn, auditor, (Br. 175) seconded the recommendation.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, invited delegates to express their opinions on this proposal to eliminate the position of the Director for Canada, which is article 27 of the By-Laws.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, said that delegates could begin discussions. He answered the question from the floor if the position of Director for Canada was a paid position. The answer was that it was a non-salaried, but it allowed a per diem and travel expenses, whenever the Director for Canada came for the Executive Committee or the General Assembly meetings.

Lew Bodnar (Br. 131) said that he was against the elimination of the position of the Director for Canada, as it was a non-salaried position. During this time of hi-tech, costs could be cut via teleconferences. If Canada happened to have people who would be doing the work, the membership could increase. He recommended that this position be retained.

Anna Burij (Br. 402) said that she came from Canada to the UNA convention for the 11th time and if we were to eliminate the position of the Director for Canada, it would be very painful to bring this kind of news to Canada. If the position of Director for Canada was too expensive, then we could elect a person who lived closer. She said, that we had not even discussed this subject, and why the membership had fallen or how to improve the work of the secretaries. If we did away with the Director of Canada, what kind of contact would the UNA have with Canada? It proved again, she said, that in all the years when she was a secretary, the UNA had not dealt with the problems of Canada. She said that they had problems like those in the U.S.A., but theirs were more complicated, i.e. recruitment of members; that Canadians did not see the UNA as a fraternal organization founded in U.S.A., but as a Ukrainian insurance company founded in the U.S.A. There were many organizations in Canada and to recruit members for the UNA would be based only on the fact that it was Ukrainian.

Maria Oscislawski (Br. 234), said that she was a UNA employee, manager of the advertising department of the publications. She considered Canadian business very important and that we had to hold on to it. Perhaps the position of director for Canada did not have to be an executive position, but it was necessary to have a Director for Canada.

Rev. Myron Kotch (Br. 39) related that 30 years ago, Canada demanded to have its own administration, but the UNA executives would not go along with these demands. As we look into the past conventions, at one time Canada was recognized on the same level as U.S.A.

Olya Czerkas (Br. 381) said that every organization needs a head and that Canada needed to be represented by its own head. She asked that we should give it a lot of thought for retaining the position of Director for Canada.

Ihor Kobil (Br. 412) said he was from Canada and that business had fallen not only in Canada, but also at Soyuzivka and everywhere else in the UNA. It did not mean that all heads be eliminated from these positions. He said that Canada had great potential and if the head had been more active, we would have been more successful. He said that Al Kachkowski had not proved himself capable and that the majority of the members lived in the Toronto and Niagara districts with active members who could prove themselves capable in the position of Director for Canada. He asked to retain this position.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340) Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly, said that she had a problem with this proposal of eliminating the position of director without having discussed the future of UNA in Canada. She asked that the position of director for Canada be retained.

Andrij Skyba (Br. 399), advisor, said that he was against the proposal, citing a mistake with Canadian money, its value went up and we had to look at Canada's future with optimism, with the hope of expanding in North America. He said that to be represented by the position of advisor was inadequate, but it was needed to expand its membership the position of director. We should not only preserve the Canadian flag in the UNA, but also consider adding a Mexican flag, assuming Ukrainians lived there. He urged everyone to oppose this motion.

Vasyl Luchkiw, (Br. 16) advisor reminded the delegates, that the last convention created a standing committee on Canada, which was to include Canadian members of the General Assembly, Myron Groch, Albert Kachkowsky and Tekla Moroz, to find a solution to successfully handle the Canadian problem. This committee was to report in two years to the executive committee on the alternatives which would provide a solution to the problem, nothing was heard about the work of this committee, with no

reports being given, but what we are hearing is to eliminate the position of director for Canada because it would cost 10,000 dollars travel money for the executive meeting. He said that today there are such things as teleconferences; have two face-to-face meetings and one teleconference with the members of the General Assembly.

Myron Groch, (Br. 461) advisor, said that at the 35th Convention nothing was said about eliminating the position of Director for Canada. If we were to eliminate this position, doing away with other things, we would be left with nothing. A while ago, Canada had a director, one auditor and two advisors. How long had it taken in the history of UNA to get a director for Canada? If the reason for eliminating the position was that business was bad, the same holds for Soyuzivka; and he was not ready to give up on Soyuzivka.

Roman Kuropas (Br. 20) said that business people always looked for potential, that we had potential already with one million Ukrainians in Canada, that we had active branches, we had to only find a method to recruit new members. We should be looking at possibilities to grow the UNA globally even in Ukraine; we should not be looking at the situation negatively, and that negativity was not healthy for the organization; he urged a no vote.

George Soltys (Br. 327) said that we had been told that we were the highest judicial authority. We had a By-Laws Committee, which was directed, as he saw it, by the executives. What disturbed him the most was that out of the eleven proposals, only four had been chosen. He was not sure what motivated this choice. The whole thing bothered him, not only that four propositions were chosen, but the proposal itself, which we were discussing at the moment. The fact that it had been chosen as one of the most important ones, he considered it to be nonsense and noticed that most people were against it. He said that if anyone who decided to vote for this proposal, he would be voting not only for the elimination of the post of Director for Canada, who was a non-salaried position, but we would be disassociating ourselves from all of the members in Canada.

Albert Kachkowski, (Br. 444) director for Canada, said that when we reduce the number of executives, where there are three salaried and three non-salaried officers, it would not do us any good. The non-salaried executives come from different localities and have broader perspectives; between the conventions, the power lay in the hands of three salaried executives. Here the By-Laws stated that we, advisors are volunteers, had an input, but it often would be difficult for us, because we did not live near one another and were not in contact.

We, in Canada, he said, have the same kind of problems as here in the U.S.A. Therefore, to rebuild the UNA in Canada should be part of rebuilding the UNA in the U.S. He believed in the slogan "united we stand, divided we fall." He added that when he had been elected Director for Canada, he could not come to some meetings; and that he had nothing against electing someone from the Toronto or Niagara area for Director for Canada.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, in reference to the proposal on the floor, read the paragraph in article 5 #27 page 25 of the By-Laws, describing the office of the director for Canada.

Wasyl Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention, read in Ukrainian article 5 #27 page 117 of the By-Laws: The Director for Canada shall be a citizen of Canada, a member in good standing of a Canadian Branch and resident of Canada. The responsibilities of the Director for Canada shall be the same as those of vice-presidents. He is also responsible for working on behalf of and promoting the work of the Ukrainian National Association and all the branches on the territory of Canada. He or she shall discharge all other duties, which are placed on him or her by the Executive Committee.

Longin Staruch (Br. 172) read those parts that would be deleted in Article 2, section d) on page 10 words referring to the director for Canada.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, put the proposal to the vote. Results of the vote on the proposal:

for – 5, against -96

Proposal failed.

Bohdan Kukuruza (Br. 399) asked if the By-Laws committee was legal, which was doing these things. Did anyone elect them? Were they appointed? Also, the total number of persons allowed to vote should be 113, not 103, which was valid for yesterday. Additional delegates had arrived since then there were 84 delegates yesterday, today there are 96.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, yielded the floor to Longin Staruch, chairman of the By-Laws Committee to read the second proposal.

Longin Staruch (Br. 172), chairman of the By-Laws Committee, before reading the proposal, answered questions asked by Bohdan Kukuruza. He said that members of the By-Laws Committee had been invited to work and they had no obligation to the president or to anyone else. He said that no one had appointed them, that they were asked and agreed to be on the committee. They had promised neither the president nor anyone else, to do their bidding.

Longin Staruch (Br. 172), chairman of the By-Laws Committee, read the second proposal.

Second Proposal of the By-Laws Committee: to reduce the number of advisors from 11 to 7; a minimum of one had to be from Canada.

Longin Staruch explained that the reason for this is that the maximum number of members, which the UNA had was 89,000. Currently the number of members had fallen to between 43,000 to 44,000. When the membership was 89,000 there were 14 advisors. Currently it was half of the maximum number, to maintain the same ratio the number should be 7 advisors.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175) auditor, seconded the proposal.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, asked if everyone had understood the substance of the second recommendation and announced the beginning of the discussion.

Lew Bodnar (Br. 131) said it seemed to him that the task of the By-Laws Committee

was to try any way it could to save money, not to increase effort. If the executive body were to recall the times of Slobodian, Lesawyer, Padoch, Sochan...how had the home office appeared at that time, how many people would be employed there; there were no computers, internet, faxes...; how many people were there today? Couldn't we look there and save some money? But not by cutting the number of advisors, and people who should be recruiting more members to the UNA. He would even bend, he said, to the point of decreasing the number of advisors to nine, being careful to check out how much effort the advisors had put to recruiting new members. If they talked nice, but failed to recruit anyone, that should be taken into account during elections. He also proposed to increase the number of advisors for Canada to two within the total number nine.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, pointed out to Lev Bodnar, that during his speech he had introduced a new proposal, which we could not consider at this time, since we were still discussing the proposal introduced by Longin Staruch. He advised Lev Bodnar to present his recommendation to the By-Laws Committee.

Roma Hadzewycz (Br. 287/340) Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly explained a point of order that we could not change the recommendation which had already been placed on the floor to be considered by the delegates, that was correct, but the chairman had also said that the convention could not accept another, that was not correct. The convention could do the following: the delegates could vote down the proposal on the floor and then officially propose from the floor a different version of the proposal, in this case Lev Bodnar's recommendation.

Maria Oscislawski (Br. 234) said that their task was to renew, develop, elevate, not merge. If we wanted to move forward, then we had to retain people, the ones who want to work as volunteers for our organization. In reality, every advisor, she believed, was a person, who wanted to dedicate his time for the good of the UNA. She was of the opinion, that Canada should have two advisors, and the Director for Canada. We should retain nine advisors, (she was against cutting). She said that we should not be looking at ratios, or the small number of members. We should have plans to double or increase the members even more. The advisor should be working in the field. It should be a person who could assist us in seeking out new secretaries and new members.

Anna Burij (Br. 402), said that she had raised a point of order, which was ignored. A lot of time could have been saved. Before voting, and determining the number of advisors for Canada, we should check if Quebec province required a representative from Quebec.

Bohdan Kukuza (Br. 399) asked whether the By-Laws Committee had considered whether we wanted to grow or to die. The second question was whether the people elected as advisors were salaried. If they were volunteers, then why should we be cutting the number of advisors? Third question, if we had to cut the number of advisors; would the home office have contact with areas far from us, like Seattle, Chicago, Canada and other places? We wanted to grow and had to make decisions in such a way that would help us grow, not to die out.

Roman Kuropas (Br. 20) said that the UNA needed as many leaders and workers as possible. We had to give up and limit ourselves, we had to develop, and make all efforts to grow and negativism did not help us at all.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340) Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly said, we had advisors, so that they could accomplish something in the field, but we did not use them. Then we said let's eliminate them, because we had fewer members. We had to have advisors, she said, so that they could have contact with members, or other people who could become our members. That was essential. We were not doing ourselves any favors by cutting, cutting and cutting everything.

Albert Kachkowski, (Br. 444) director for Canada said that the By-Laws Committee should have informed the convention delegates and branches about changes it was proposing, 90 days in advance. (The By-Laws Committee made presentation as specified in the UNA By-Laws). Besides, were we talking about only one advisor for Canada or a minimum of one for Canada? (the chairman, Taras Szmagala, Sr. answered, minimum).

He said that he had served for 8 years in the General Assembly, and that the Convention should not be wasting time having delegates listen to reports of the executive body, since these reports are very accurately written, published and distributed to the delegates for their information. For example, Roma Lisovich's report has 10 pages. Time, which was wasted by listening to the oral reports of the members of the General Assembly, could have spent on discussion of UNA problems.

Albert Kachkowski supported the ideas of the previous speaker, Roma Hadzewycz; and was against this motion.

Vasyl Luchkiw, (Br. 16) advisor asked that before we were to vote "yes" or "no," he wanted to turn our attention to our community. If we were to cut, we would place ourselves on the same level as the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, who recently had their convention, had nine advisors. Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics had seven advisors. We considered ourselves to be the largest Ukrainian organization and the oldest, yet we would be equal to them.

Myron Groch, (Br. 461), advisor said that eight years ago, he became an advisor. They had been told that each advisor would receive an assignment. Afterwards, this idea had fallen apart. To cut would not help and would not make sense. It was important, he said, to elect advisors who were interested, who were ready to sacrifice their time. They were not paid, only our expenses, which are returned to us. If we were to cut, then there should be a number less than proposed during the discussion.

Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414) advisor said that the cut in advisors from 11 to seven was too drastic. During the last convention, the cut had been from 14 to 11. She understood that delegates were not satisfied with that radical cut, that they proposed the change from 11 to nine. In the previous convention, as the chairman of the By-Laws Committee, she had met with the By-Laws Committee and had come up with a new proposal, which was 11 advisors, it passed. She said that she had been to all the meetings of the General Assembly, and she had yet to see all the advisors attend. The

last time, three were missing. They were there to give advice, suggestions, offer what they had learned in the field. If they did not come to meetings, they were not contributing in any way to the organization. By reducing to seven, it would make the body equal to the executive committee in size. It would be the executive committee against the advisors. She agreed with R. Hadzewycz not to cut the number any lower. She was of the opinion that the advisors could do a lot for the UNA. The problem was that they were not assigned to do anything in their local areas. There were no seminars where they could learn to do their job. She said she believed in the UNA and took her position as advisor seriously, and tried to do her job to the best of her ability.

Adrij Skyba, (Br. 399), advisor said that there was no need to reduce or increase the number of advisors since it didn't cost anything. We should have 20 advisors, because every one of them could do something for the UNA. That would only benefit the UNA. He also said that advisors should be given responsibilities; if he recruited one member or 20 members, it would still benefit the UNA. He was against downsizing and suggested that the number of advisors should be left the way they were or that we needed even more advisors, because more is always a positive sign.

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, asked Myron Kuzio, chairman of the Credentials Committee, to update the delegate vote and count the votes.

Myron Kuzio, (Br. 277) chairman of the Credentials Committee, introduced himself and named the members of the committee: Stephanie Hawryluk (Br. 88), Anna Slobodian (Br. 88), Paul Fuga (Br. 269) and Julian Kotlar (Br. 42). He said that the committee had reviewed all the credentials and affirmed that all was in conformity with the By-Laws of the Ukrainian National Association. The number of delegates today was 96; yesterday the number of delegates was reported as 84; as the session began, delegates were still arriving. Therefore the new count of eligible voters was: 113, 96 delegates, plus 17 members of the General Assembly. He thanked all the members of the Credentials Committee for their excellent cooperation. He especially thanked Maria Drich, UNA Home Office employee, who was a great help to them.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, reminded everyone that in order to amend the By-Laws, a 2/3 majority was necessary (76 votes). He asked for a vote on second recommendation by a show of hands.

Proposal: Decrease number of advisors from 11 to 7

Voting on the proposal: For – 9 , against – 84, 7 abstentions

Proposal failed.

Longin Staruch (Br. 172) read the third proposal.

Third Proposal: If an advisor failed to attend regular or special meetings of the General Assembly twice, without a good excuse, or failed to take part in the convention, the Executive Committee could replace him/her and appoint someone else in his/her place at the next scheduled board meeting.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained that there would be changes in the By-Laws in connection with this proposal and that absence refers to one without a good excuse. He proposed to leave this proposal pending language editing for later consideration. He suggested proceeding to the fourth proposal.

Third proposal was tabled for language editing.

Longin Staruch (Br. 172) read the fourth proposal.

Fourth Proposal: the Ukrainian text of the By-Laws, the word "kasyr" be replaced by the word skarbnik.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175) auditor, seconded the motion.

Motria Milanych (Br. 450) asked whether great costs would be involved in changing the word; she realized that manuals or new pages would have to be inserted in our manuals and By-Laws.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer, answered that she could not answer this question.

Tara Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained the cost would be minimal, since the costs would be added to other changes and these things would be paid all together. He asked for closing the discussion by a show of hands. The majority raised their hands and he called for a vote on this proposal

Voting on proposal number four: For – 66, against – 1. abstentions – 13

Proposal failed.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, asked Lev Bodnar to make his proposal, to amend the By-Law regarding the number of advisors in the General Assembly.

Lew Bodnar (Br. 131) proposed nine advisors for the United States and two for Canada; so that the total number of advisors would remain 11.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained that earlier Lev Bodnar proposed to amend the By-Laws by changing the number of advisors from 11 to nine. He then asked Vasyl Luchkiw to make that proposal.

Vasyl Luchkiw, (Br. 16), advisor proposed to reduce the number of advisors from 11 to nine with minimum of one advisor for Canada. *A man's voice in the audience seconded the motion; he did not identify himself.*

Irena Pryjma (Br. 292) proposed to leave 11 advisors as it was, but from these, two should be from Canada. It would have been positive that these two advisors would be from Canada, and be very well informed about Canadian affairs.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175) auditor, said he was for a change from 11 to nine. Why, he asked, because everyone spoke nicely, how they would cooperate? He did not see any of their activity. He said that they did not attend meetings, that a good quality advisor was hard to find, if we were to elect eight, that meant that there would be eight flyers. We needed eleven, he said, and we talked about volunteers, but they had not materialized. It would be good if all of the volunteers were qualified. He asked that we should take that under consideration when we voted.

Vasyl Luchkiw, (Br. 16), advisor explained what nine and a minimum of one from Canada, meant: one is guaranteed, regardless of how many votes he/she would receive. If two, there would be two representatives in the General Assembly, then there would be a minimum of two. He said, that today there were nine advisors present and he had never seen a meeting where all were present. He asked for a vote for the proposal, since there were not many applicants for the advisor position.

Oksana Koziak (Br. 47) said that she supported Irene Pryjma's proposal, this way they could change something to improve the work of the advisors.

Andrij Skyba, (Br. 399), advisor said that he wanted to emphasize what was just said, we should vote it down and leave the 11 as it was. Advisors should be given more responsibility. Each one had his own life and sometimes, he couldn't attend the meeting. If he couldn't attend then that would be a good excuse. We had good advisors. He asked for incentive to work, not to be driven away. He was for keeping the same number as now.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained once more, that delegates had to vote on the proposal to decrease the number of advisors from the current 11 to nine, and a minimum of one from Canada.

Voting on the proposal: For – 47, against – 49, abstentions – 3. 100 delegates voted.

Proposal failed.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, as per parliamentarian's advice, requested to recount all of our votes on this proposal with secret ballots, which would be prepared during the intermission.

The proposal: To decrease the number of advisors from the current 11 to nine, with a minimum of one from Canada.

Voting instructions: The Credentials Committee would distribute the blue and beige ballots. We would have to write down the number of our Branch, on the other side write "yes" – for the proposal or "no" – against the proposal, or "abstain."

Michael Sawkiw, co-chairman of the convention, proceeded with the vote on the amendment to the By-Laws,

Results on voting on the proposal: For – 50, against – 54, abstentions – 5, 109 delegates voted.

Proposal failed.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, read again the text of the third proposal to amend Article 5, #31, page 28 of the By-Laws, concerning advisors of the General Assembly: If a member of the General Assembly misses two General Assembly meetings without a good excuse, he/she would have to resign from his/her position. The Executive Committee would replace the person with another advisor, who was a candidate during the previous convention, if possible. Otherwise the Executive Committee would choose the replacement candidate by a 3/4 vote. The General Assembly would evaluate the validity of the excuse.

Vasyl Luchkiw, (Br. 16), advisor, seconded the proposal.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, asked for a discussion on the motion.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358), auditor, said that he understood why this proposal is being submitted. He sympathized with the General Assembly, which wanted to work, wanted to have people at every meeting of the General Assembly, but he thought that missing two meetings, left only one between conventions. He asked if it served any purpose to remove, or ask someone to resign. The person could resign or not. Even if one of the advisors, or any one of the other officers in the General Assembly did not attend, and in the opinion of the General Assembly, the absentee did not have a good excuse, but was active in the field, he thought, he could be forgiven. If the member attended every meeting, but did not do anything in the field, would that be better? Why should we be embarrassing these people, when there were so few volunteers. He questioned the wisdom of such an amendment.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340) Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly said that she completely agreed with Zenon Holubec. It was an unnecessary amendment to the By-Laws. People worked in various fields and maybe sometimes there was a reason that someone couldn't come. She didn't like the open ended approach to the reason for absence. Who would decide on the validity of the excuse? She asked that the resolution be explained; if it was changed, to read it again in two languages, so that we would accurately understand it. She said that she was against the proposal, saying it was unnecessary. It concerned three meetings, which advisors had to attend, who in addition, had to be working in the field. We should be trying, she said, to make use of the advisors.

Longin Staruch, (Br. 172) said that we were not talking about those who were working in the field. It was to get rid of "dead wood". If one missed one meeting, he still would have two years to make up for it and be productive. Otherwise, we would have a person doing nothing for four years. That was the reasoning behind it. He read the text in English: "if an advisor fails to attend two meetings, regular or special or the convention, the Executive Committee may decide to appoint a replacement with the next highest vote getter at the previous convention, if available, if there were more candidates who were not elected; the General Assembly will appoint by 3/4 vote the available candidate. If there were no candidates for this position during the convention, then the Executive Committee could choose a replacement candidate. The determination of the validity of the excuse for the above is the absolute, unappealable decision of the General Assembly."

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, called for a vote by secret ballot on the proposal to amend the By-Law regarding the replacement of advisors for two un-excused absences from meetings of the General Assembly.

Lew Bodnar (Br. 131) said that for him personally, he would feel ashamed if we were to write that into the By-Laws. We the convention, would be at fault if we were to elect such people, whom we want today and then would throw them away. We should be paying attention to what the person had accomplished already and elect

these types of persons, in the first place.

Voting on the proposal: For – 48, against – 59, 3 abstentions.

Proposal failed.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, announced No. 14 on the agenda and asked Roma Lisovich to make her presentation on the most recent work for Soyuzivka.

14. DISCUSSION ON "DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SOYUZIVKA"

Roma Lisovich, treasurer, began the presentation by reporting on the improvements that occurred at Soyuzivka over the past four years. Utilizing visual aids, slides with outlines & power point, to help her illustrate the progress that occurred and plans for the future. She acknowledged the deficit and discussed the positives as well as the negatives.

When she assumed her office in 2002, she was aware of the grave financial situation. Soyuzivka had a huge deficit, buildings were in a state of disrepair. For most of the year, Soyuzivka had low occupancy. There were promises to save Soyuzivka. The insurance department from the State of New Jersey were pressing us to sell it and get rid of the problems.

What was our goal? First, we were advised by counsel to create a separate foundation for Soyuzivka named the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation. The foundation was incorporated in the State of Delaware. Nestor Paslawsky was hired as Soyuzivka's new General Manager. The new management of Soyuzivka is showing promise. There were many positive achievements on the financial side to balance the negatives. From years 2002 to 2005, profits from room occupancy rose by 62%.

The general increase in income was 38% during the term of our administration. This followed 20 years of decline. Many expenses were beyond our control: utilities, gas, electricity, water, insurance and professional fees. We had an old boiler, which had to be replaced, and all of the buildings were in need of renovation. Winter had been harsh and our finances showed it. A lot had been done in the four years. It was only the beginning. We had better control over our operations. Auditors from the Auditing Committee visited Soyuzivka. The audit was professionally done by Zenon Holubec. We had repairs in the amount of \$431,000 and capital renovations. Five rooms were renovated, some buildings were renovated and she was proud of Soyuzivka's very dedicated employees.

In the four years they had activated a corps of volunteers, an extraordinary group of young professionals aged 20 - 30 years-old, who did what was needed: either by helping through their professional expertise or cleaning up, painting etc. They were extremely dedicated. Maya Lew Br. 5, a new Branch Secretary, started this volunteer movement and she deserved recognition for this.

R. Lisovich continued, that they began to look for volunteers and charitable gift givers; there were plenty of them. She wanted to mention the Chelaks, the Bilous Foundation, and Selfreliance of New York who gave us a significant donation. The Plast sorority "Spartanky" have been supporting us for the past four years. These enthusiasts were worthy of recognition and deserved our thanks. We needed more people and organizations like these, she said.

She continued, that there was a great interest on the part of young families for the "ptashata" camps, under the direction of "Pershi Steszhi" and the leadership of Neonila Sochan.

Now from the technical side: why was a (Limited Liabilities Corp.) LLC created? That was done according to the professional advice, of our attorneys. Soyuzivka is owned by the UNA. First in terms of liability, the UNA is responsible. In the LLC this kind of liability would be removed from the UNA. Second, as per legal advice, Soyuzivka LLC could be taken off UNA books and thereby Soyuzivka deficits would not be part of UNA financial reporting. The LLC would have its own reporting requirements. However, Soyuzivka LLC will be on its' own, without support from the UNA.

Regarding the townhouse project, four thousand surveys were mailed to discern community interest in the townhouse project. We received 330 positive answers; statistically this is a large base of interested people. We had already made plans for this and were under the impression that we could use the deposits people made for their town houses for development of land: lots, roads, water and related items, at a cost of \$1.5 million. Unfortunately the State of New York does not allow the use of deposits, deposits must sit in escrow. Therefore we did not have enough capital to initiate this project. We needed investors who would work with us. It was also impossible to borrow money for this project, since the UNA would be underwriting the loan. This would have placed the loan on our financial statement.

We found a former New York state attorney general who specializes in non-profit corporations, whom we asked for advice. It was concluded that Soyuzivka had to have been created as a foundation from the very beginning of its existence. It had been created so that Ukrainians had a place to meet, develop and preserve our culture. These were precisely the guidelines and criteria, under which our "Heritage" foundation could be established. The foundation, which was incorporated in July and now awaits Internal Revenue Service (IRS) approval as a 501 © (3) charitable foundation, will be supported in part by donations, grants and annual membership fees.

The Heritage Foundation has five members on the Board of Directors: two from the UNA Executive Committee and three from outside the UNA executive body.

Soyuzivka, could not continue to exist the way it was. Patronized by Ukrainians alone – to stay open only in summer. For ten months we had to continue paying for heat and related expenses, all types of insurance, and exist on three months of income. Financially that was impossible. The only way to continue would be to transform Soyuzivka to a year round operation, so that one could visit it in the winter and have rooms available. Unfortunately, the main house, she said, in its present state, had very few rooms, only 15. We had a third floor, but in order to renovate the third floor, everything that's fundamental: the foundation, electricity and other things would have to be changed. If that were done, we would have 35 rooms available for occupancy, while the first floor would be reserved for conference halls.

We had not abandoned the dream to construct small dwellings for people, but in the current financial state, we would need partners for this enterprise. We were actively seeking someone who could work with us. Recently Orest Fedash, our advisor, informed us that his group would be constructing luxury homes a half-mile from us

and it would be beneficial to take advantage of this situation.

Another idea was that there were several persons who wanted to renovate an entire building at Soyuzivka. They would invest money into the renovation, and they would like to have the right for a certain period of time, two to three times a year to rent the building for their personal use. The remainder of the time "Soyuzivka management corporation" would be able to rent out the rooms and would share in the profits with the person who renovated the building. Soyuzivka would handle the housekeeping, i.e. laundry, cleaning, and related chores, for these people and for our business.

She continued, that we had to fill up Soyuzivka from Monday thru Thursday. At one time on weekends we used to be busy only during three seasons. Today, thanks to Nestor Paslawsky and his staff we had weekend business during the whole year.

The longer we kept Soyuzivka on the UNA books, the bigger the risk to our reserve. This we did not want. The community and the UNA had to spread the idea that Soyuzivka was open for the community and the Ukrainian community should help with the responsibility of Soyuzivka.

She thanked everyone for their input and advice. Most ideas were not hers, but during the process of receiving advice, the ideas would come up, while problems were being discussed. She thanked the delegates for their attention.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, announced that primary elections would take place between 5 and 5:30 p.m..

Longin Staruch, (Br. 172) said that three out of four proposals for change to the manuals are recommended.

First proposal: Branches shall meet at least once per year. (Article 8 page 68)

Second proposal: Five members shall constitute a quorum @ the annual meeting of branches having less than 60 members. For branches having 60 or more members, a quorum is one-tenth (1/10) membership. (Article 8 page 68)

Third proposal: To prepare for the event, should the secretary of the Branch be incapacitated, he is required in advance to prepare written information containing the following: the name of the bank where the Branch has an account, account number and the name of persons, other than the Branch secretary, who have signature authority over Branch documents. (Article 18, page 73)

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), seconded the proposals.

The three proposals were put to a vote.

Proposals Passed by a majority vote. 2 abstentions.

15. DISCUSSION: STATUS OF THE UNA IN CANADA

Stefan Kaczaraj, president, said that we had already talked about Canada, that we had a Canadian actuary, who advised us about Canadian business who said that we had no future in Canada. The actuary looks at the number of Canadian members, and our costs related to the Canadian business. Insurance authorities in Canada audit and review our reports. We are required to have a Canadian actuary, who bills us at approximately \$40,000 a year to calculate our reserves. Also, we are required to have a chief agent in Canada, who represents UNA, whom we pay approximately \$10,000. We are paying taxes on premiums and corporate taxes in Canada.

We had to emphasize one thing, he said, almost all American insurance companies who insured Canadians have left Canada. It is difficult to remain profitable in Canada. If we read our Canadian reports, we would see that losses continue. Our actuary advised us to turn our Canadian insurance into American, giving every member the opportunity to change his Canadian policy into an American policy.

In Canada we have 2,500 members, half of which are paid up. Canadian authorities require Canadian investments, primarily Canadian bonds, which pay lower interest rates than in the U.S. Also we would avoid risking losses due to currency fluctuations. At one time the Canadian dollar was worth \$0.62 USD, currently it is \$0.84 USD and soon could equal \$1.00 USD; it could change in one or another direction, but one could never predict it. For these reasons our actuary advised us to convert the Canadian policies. Stefan Kaczaraj said that he knew it would be painful, but we should pay attention to the advise of the actuary.

Another solution would be to sell our book of business to another fraternal in Canada, however, I prefer to convert the Canadian policies to American and keep our Canadian membership. In the last four years, unfortunately, very little was done in Canada. The Director for Canada has a certain responsibility to maintain regular contact with the secretaries. The director could not do everything himself. He needs to work with secretaries, districts in Toronto or Montreal. He has to recruit members, travel, and keep in contact with the membership. Then something could come of it. If nothing is done, the reserves will continue to be reduced.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, announced a list of speakers for discussion on the topic: "UNA Status in Canada."

Anna Buriy, (Br. 402) said that she was ready to defend Canada, because she could not forget a time when Canada was growing in membership. Problems in Canada were not the same as those in the U.S.; difficulties in increasing membership were more complicated due to the fact that the Ukrainian Canadian community looked at the UNA differently. Canada had a lot of Ukrainian community organizations, and Canadians looked at the UNA not as a Ukrainian community organization, a fraternal organization, but as a Ukrainian insurance company based in the U.S.A. As opposed to the U.S. sentiment, where people were drawn to it as a fraternal benefit society, in Canada it was seen as an insurance company only.

Addressing the president, she pointed out that he said that "we will see what you in Canada are able to do." She made a point that they would not be able to do anything without assistance from our home office. They needed support with advertising, a one-time ad on TV, or on the radio would not be enough. It would have to be continually advertised, targeting new immigrants in Canada, that the UNA was an organization that provided us with benefits, she said. We should tell them about assistance that UNA provided to Ukraine – that should be emphasized. To do this alone, without main

office help, their hands would be tied. They had no money, as there were many expenses involved with promoting the UNA in Canada.

If the UNA leadership let the UNA remain in Canada under the same conditions as it is now, not doing anything to take advantage of the potential that existed there, that there were people there who could buy our insurance. Without the assistance of the home office, we, the Canadian secretaries, would not be able to do anything.

She pointed out that during the time when there was a Canadian office in Toronto, i.e. Bob Cook, how many employees were there? How many did we train? What had happened to them? We did not pay attention to the fact, that when we dismissed Bob Cook, that we had to hold on to the employees, which we trained with our money. They were quickly absorbed by Canadian companies and now, on our Ukrainian TV programs, Canadian Banks, e.g. Scotia Bank, these were people, who were trained by us, were asking our public to buy insurance from non-Ukrainian institutions. She said we let these people go, we neglected them, we had organizers trained with our funds, who now were beating us at our own game. It was very painful to watch this person trained by us calling us to buy other insurance.

She said if the UNA couldn't make an effort to explain to the new immigrants the importance of UNA, then we would not be able to bring them over to our side.

Albert Kachkowski, (Br. 444) director for Canada, said that he was touched, when he just heard the president say, that you in Canada would have to do this and this. Wouldn't it have been better if he had said, we in Canada had to do it this way!?

After the last convention we were supposed to report to you after two years that Canada was closed and all those good things that result from such a closure. He thanked God that the decision to sever Canada from the UNA did not occur. He asked the president to believe this convention and the Canadian delegates that there were possibilities in Canada and he asked the president not to believe the actuary that there should not be any effort made in Canada to convert Canadian policies into American policies.

He continued saying that when we had problems, we had to talk about them. He stated that the problem in Canada was one that the president was not only president of the UNA in the U.S.A., but also the UNA in Canada. The By-Laws state the position of director for Canada was non-salaried (upon checking Article 5 #27 page 25 of the By-Laws this statement is incorrect) but how much work was the director responsible for! A director, volunteer with great respect to the executive body, Al Kachkowski asked if any of the paid executives would like to perform the duties of their position as a volunteer. He said that they would have to be realistic and realize that this job could not be done gratis. He challenged the executives if they were serious about cost cutting to assume a volunteer position. Earn a living somewhere else, the three of them, and let them look after the U.S.A. on the same terms. If they wanted to do away with Canada, then we had to change the logo, do away with the Canadian flag at Soyuzivka then be happy in America, but that if we failed in Canada, he didn't know how far behind the UNA would be finished in the U.S.A.

He was thankful for the foundation which had been created for Soyuzivka, he optimistically believed that with the help of those who were dedicated to save it, he continued, that Soyuzivka would be resurrected and thrive. He asked everyone to work positively for the good of the UNA.

Myron Groch, (Br. 461), advisor said that today we made Canada feel better. In order to gain something, something had to be expended or invested. At one time a lot of initiative had come from Toronto or even western Canada. There were more possibilities. Not more than ten years ago, we tried to do something new in Canada. The executives had thought they were doing something big. He said that he was not blaming them, but they should not be blaming Canada. Why are we being told today that we must do this and this? Was the UNA 'mine' or 'ours'? He understood, that it was ours. Were we being sold or transferred to someone else? How could we, he asked, sell insurance to a person in Canada. when he knew that our very existence was not certain. Yes, he said, no one could perform miracles. It would be good to read in the paper that something was accomplished in the UNA, he said, let us do it together!

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20) said that he believed in the future of Canada, that Canada would come up with a plan, there were many Ukrainians whom the UNA had not reached yet. He told us about UNA's history and its accomplishments. He also proposed that we establish a UNA Day, to be celebrated in every district in U.S. and Canada. He expressed hope that our children and grandchildren would be working for the good of the UNA.

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76) proposed that we meet and make plans for activities in Canada, which we would present to the executives. He said, that we should not change our actuary, who was grounded in reality. We were grounded in hope, the executives were working for the success of all of us, but that it could not be done without work in districts both in the U.S.A. and in Canada. We could not close our doors to Canada, because there were a million Ukrainians there.

Andrij Skyba, (Br. 399), advisor believes the president has half the answer. The president should check out the currency exchange, Canadian into U.S., whether it was possible. We should not be in a hurry to do it and when payments were made in U.S. dollars then the benefits would be payable in U.S. dollars. This could become a good selling point, resulting in the possibility of fewer policies, but more in U.S. currency.

There was talk that N.J. was not friendly to fraternal organizations. What could be done in view of this? Maybe we should change actuaries, since they were not on our side. The UFA was in Pennsylvania, which was more favorable to fraternal. If there is a merger with UFA, he proposed, after the merger, which should occur soon and if he was still an advisor, that we make a paper move to Pennsylvania, not a physical one, where we would find more friends for our fraternal. That would constitute part of the president's answer, having acquired more favorable conditions among the regulators, we could gain advantage for our work in Canada. This was his input as an advisor and he did not know whether this would be a complete answer, but this would be a start. He believed that would be doing something for Canada.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president, in response answered Andrij Skyba saying that the actuaries were on our side. We employed them, they were on the side of the members.

They looked at the financial reports and wanted to be sure that the organization had sufficient assets to cover the liabilities. They were not our enemies, he said. It was true that there were only three fraternal associations in N.J., whereas in Pennsylvania there were many. They look at UNA not as a fraternal, but as an insurance company.

In Pennsylvania he agreed, they understand more of the fraternal aspects of the organizations. The regulators in Trenton had to be sure that there were enough assets, so the company would continue to stay in existence.

As he had talked about insurance and the actuary's statements, he said that he was stating only the point of view of people who looked at our financial reports. If we really wanted to correct things and build up and recruit more members in Canada – that would be great. If we begin to grow in Toronto and in Montreal, then we would not have such problems.

To leave N.J. and transfer to Pennsylvania, we had to put ourselves on good financial footing. In order to complete any kind of merger, we first had to receive permission from the regulators in both states NJ & PA. This was not the time, because a loss of \$1 million in reserves is a serious matter.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, announced the meeting of the Secretaries Committee at 10 p.m. in the library.

Rev. Deacon Myron Kotch, (Br. 39) made an announcement that divine liturgies for the intention: for the good of the Ukrainian National Association, would be celebrated tomorrow on Sunday, at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church at Soyuzivka.

18. ELECTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It was decided to conduct primary elections and continue discussions on the convention agenda simultaneously.

Michael Sawkiw, (Br. 57/16) co-chairman of the convention, announced that he would not be able to attend the Monday session of the convention, because he had to be in Washington, the first lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko, the spouse of the President of Ukraine, would be meeting with the Ukrainian community. He also discussed an important topic, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the tragic event in the history of the Ukrainian people: the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Many activities are being planned by the committee for its commemoration.

First – to erect a memorial monument in Washington to commemorate this event in Ukraine.

Second – to withdraw the Pulitzer Prize awarded to Walter Duranty for concealing from the world the truth of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine.

Third – that the topic: Famine-Genocide in Ukraine be taught in all U.S. secondary schools. Other horrible world events are being taught such as the Jewish Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, but unfortunately, very few schools were teaching about the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide.

Fourth – the next proposed project of this committee would also be a traveling exhibit throughout the entire U.S. and in well-known U.S. museums.

Fifth – the declaration in U.S. Congress that the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 was directed toward the Ukrainian people.

He asked the 36th Convention and the General Assembly, branch secretaries to be active in implementing these actions to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine in 1932-1933. He emphasized that if we did not do it then no one would do it for us.

He reminded us that this was an extraordinary opportunity, to dedicate this important time to the Ukrainian community in order to tell the U.S. public what had happened in Ukraine 75 years ago and to present to the U.S. population news about the monument for the Famine-Genocide, and acknowledge the fact that this was really an act of genocide perpetrated against the Ukrainian people. He said that we, being part of the wider Ukrainian community, had the obligation to do this for our ancestors and for Ukraine. He reminded us that last year after the inauguration of President Yushchenko, his first speech was exclusively on the occasion of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. We should be putting as much effort as possible, trying to spread as much information to the American population about the issue of this 75th anniversary.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, asked the delegates when would be the best time to hold the discussion on agenda topic "The Future of the UNA."

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340) Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly, proposed that this discussion on the "Future of the UNA" take place tomorrow on Sunday, between noon and 2 p.m., and today this afternoon session that we discuss the topic of Soyuzivka, and complete the elections.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer, said she realized that there were many questions on the Soyuzivka topic and therefore, she thought that it would be very awkward with people walking to and from the primary elections. She preferred that every one heard it and participated. Otherwise, half the people would not hear the entire discussion. She was for doing it tomorrow, where we could combine the two topics "The Future of the UNA" and "Soyuzivka." She repeated, that we just could not be doing these two things, voting and carrying on two parallel activities, a discussion and voting simultaneously. That bothered her and she was certain, that it would bother everyone else.

Tara Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, proposed to begin the primary voting without the other parallel activity, but asked the delegates not to leave the hall after the primary vote was completed. We would continue the discussion or decide on the time to continue the discussion tomorrow.

Roman Kuropas (Br. 20) announced that the Elections Committee had elected him chairman, and Christine Brodyn (Br. 27), secretary. He explained the balloting procedure, reminding us that the delegates would proceed by rows, fill out the ballots in English and show their ID. There were 96 delegates and 17 members of the General Assembly, a total of 113 eligible votes. He thanked Nicholas Bobeczko (Br. 102) for his assistance and said that the 11-member Elections Committee did its best to carry

out its duties and to complete the voting as quickly as possible.

Lew Bodnar (Br. 131) said that he did not know who the candidates were. There was a gentleman next to him, who was a candidate. He asked him, if he had announced himself, he answered "no". He said that the candidates should line up and tell us something about themselves: who they were and what office they were running for. He also said that he had heard that W. Prochorenko was to be a candidate. He asked if he had the right.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, replied that W. Prochorenko is not an active member and therefore was ineligible to run for any office. If any delegate were to write him on a ballot no one could prohibit it, but his name would not be counted. He also said that it was a good idea that each candidate should say something about himself, but no electioneering, just a few words about oneself.

Olya Czerkas. (Br. 381) said that she did not know who was running and who to vote for, since she did not know anyone. This was true about other delegates. She wanted to know what their experience was and what they were doing now for the community.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained that they were voting for president, first and second vice-presidents, director for Canada, national secretary, treasurer, three auditors and 11 advisors.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly pointed out that according to the By-Laws, we had to vote separately for first vice-president and second vice-president, because there was a difference. The first vice-president was to be ready to assume the president's position, in case he became unable to perform his duties. (Article 5, # 25, 26 Page 24-25 explains this By-Law).

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, thanked R. Hadzewycz for the correction.

Candidates introduced themselves briefly:

Stefan Kaczaraj, (Br. 25) president of the UNA, running for president.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358) chairman of the Auditing Committee – for First Vice-president; his qualifications are on his campaign flyer.

Eugene Oscislawski, (Br. 234) advisor, for First Vice-President, was a former officer in the Polish navy, engineer.

Andrij Skyba, (Br. 399) advisor – for Second Vice-President; he served as advisor for 8 years and was active in the Ukrainian community in Chicago.

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76) – for Second Vice-President; he was active in Ukrainian community.

Myron Groch, (Br. 461) advisor, – for Director for Canada; was Branch secretary for 32 years; 16 years vice-president of the Niagara District; 4 years advisor, and 4 years auditor.

Christine E. Kozak, (Br. 134) National Secretary – for National Secretary; served four years as National Secretary

Roma Lisovich, (Br. 25) Treasurer – for Treasurer; professional banker; treasurer for 4 years

Vasyly Luchkiw, (Br. 16) advisor – for auditor; retired college professor; many years of service to the UNA, member of General Assembly

Wasyly Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), – for advisor; experience 4 years as advisor; an M.D.; professor at Temple University.

Gerald Tysiak, (Br. 13) – for auditor, experience as auditor in credit union; had a background in auditing.

Maya Lew, (Br. 5) – for advisor; said she was passionate to help UNA.

Myron Pylypiak, (Br. 496) advisor, – for advisor; champion organizer; would work harder to recruit members.

Nicholas Fil, (Br. 13) – for advisor.

Bohdan Kukuruz, (Br. 399) – for advisor; employed by Chicago City Council, would work to recruit members of the 4th wave.

Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414) advisor – for advisor; active in Ukrainian organizations; Alexander Redko, (Br. 130) – for advisor; holds professional insurance license; ready to continue selling, this time, UNA insurance.

Albert Kachkowski, (Br. 444) director for Canada, – community activist; eight years – advisor; four years – Director for Canada.

Serguei Djuola, (Br. 472) – for advisor; said he didn't like to talk a lot, but he was ready to work hard.

Pavlo Prinko, (Br. 83) advisor – for advisor; served four years as advisor.

Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381) – for advisor.

George Soltys, (Br. 327), asked if we could write in a candidate?

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, answered, yes, since this process would continue on Monday; candidates would be asked if they accepted or declined to run for office.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, announced that tomorrow, Sunday, May 28, 2006, there would be a session under the tent near Vorokhta near the main building, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Results from primary voting would be announced.

Sunday, May 28, 2006 morning.

Divine liturgy was celebrated at Holy Trinity Church for the success of the Ukrainian National Association and for the welfare of the living members and for the repose of the souls of the deceased members. Early afternoon a grand concert was held at Veselka.

Sunday afternoon session began 4:30 p.m.

18. ELECTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued)

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, began the session and said that the first order of business during this session would be to report on the results of primary elections and simultaneously ask candidates if they accepted or declined candi-

dacy for a position.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), thanked the members of the Elections Committee for their cooperation, said that out of 113 delegates, there were 110 voters and asked secretary, Christine Brodyn to read the results of primary voting during the 36th Convention of the UNA.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained after the list of candidates voted on in the primary election is read candidates would be asked if they accept or decline candidacy on the final ballot.

Christine Brodyn, (Br. 27) Elections Committee, read the results of the primary elections.

(1) President:

Stefan Kaczaraj – 99
Stefan Hawrysz – 1
Christine Kozak – 1

(3) Second Vice-President:

Michael Koziupa – 45
Andrij Skyba – 30
Eugene Oscislowski – 13
Zenon Holubec – 12
Martha Lysko – 3
Wasył Szeremeta – 3

(5) National Secretary

Christine E. Kozak – 104
Taras Szmagala – 1
Eugene Oscislowski – 1

Auditors:

Gerald Tysiak 90
Wasył Szeremeta – 84
Vasył Luchkiw – 83
Olya Czerkas – 3
Gloria Horbaty – 2
Stefan Lysiak – 2
Jaroslawa Komichak – 1
Myron Groch – 1
Michael Koziupa – 1
Zenon Holubec – 1

Advisors:

Maya Lew – 91
Myron Pylypiak – 83
Pawlo Prinko – 83
Gloria Horbaty – 80
Nicholas Fil – 76
Olya Czerkas – 65
Bohdan Kukuruza – 62
Albert Kachkowski – 61
Alexander Redko – 58
Serguei Djoula – 45
Vasył Luchkiw – 16
Eugene Oscislowski – 14
Anna Buriy – 13
Andrij Skyba – 11
Myron Groch – 9
George Soltys – 9
Michael Koziupa – 8
Gerald Tysiak – 5
Eugene Serba – 5
Zenon Holubec – 4
Stephanie Hawryluk – 2
Wasył Szeremeta – 2

(2) First Vice-President:

Zenon Holubec – 63
Eugene Oscislowski – 40
Michael Koziupa – 5
Andrij Skyba – 1

(4) Director for Canada:

Myron Groch – 80
Albert Kachkowski – 6

(6) Treasurer:

Rome Lisovich – 104
Stefan Kaczaraj – 1

Eugene Oscislowski – 1
Myron Pylypiak – 1
Andrij Skyba – 1
Alexander Serafyn – 1
Jaroslaw Zaviysky – 1
Christine Kozak – 1
Maya Lew – 1
Albert Kachkowski – 1
Bohdan Kukuruza – 1

Michael Bohdan – 2
Martha Lysko – 2
Roman Kuropas – 2
Wolodymyr Kozicky – 2
Oksana Trytjak – 2
Ulana Prociuk – 1
Irene Pryjma – 1
Longin Staruch – 1
Maria Oscislowski – 1
Maria Walchuk – 1
Luba Keske – 1
Stefan Lysiak – 1
Sochan – 1
Iouri Lazirko – 1
Yaroslav Zaviysky – 1
Stefan Hawrysz – 1
Eli Matiash – 1
Christine E. Kozak – 1
Roma Lisovich – 1
Motria Milanytch – 1
Paul Romanovich – 1
Julian Pishko – 1

The following accepted nominations: Maya Lew, Myron Pylypiak, Gloria Horbaty, Pawlo Prinko, Nicholas Fil; Olya Czerkas, Bohdan Kukuruza, Albert Kachkowski, Alex Redko, Serguei Djoula, Eugene Oscislowski; George Soltys, Eugene Serba, Michael Bohdan, Paul Romanovich and Julian Pishko – 16 candidates were placed on the final ballot.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, greeted Ulana M. Diachuk, former president of the UNA for many years, who dedicated many years of her life to work for the good of the UNA. Delegates greeted her with applause.

Eugene Oscislowski, (Br. 234), advisor asked if he could be a candidate for any position in the UNA, if his wife was an employee in the home office of the UNA, as there might be a conflict of interest.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, assured Eugene Oscislowski that he was legally entitled to run for any office of the UNA.

14. DISCUSSION: “DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SOYUZIVKA” (continued)

Longin Staruch, (Br. 172), proposed that in the field, we should be holding evenings where people, our families and friends would hear good things about Soyuzivka.

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76), thanked R. Lisovich for her good work for Soyuzivka and expressed hope that her initiative would lead to new ideas.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175), auditor, said everything that R. Lisovich presented and explained was good, but the UNA was losing a million dollars a year from

Soyuzivka and the publications, and that we should set a deadline to do something in order to avoid being closed down by N.J. state authorities. Four more years of these financial losses and the question would be: would the UNA exist.

Myron Pylypiak, (Br. 496), advisor advised that we not sell Soyuzivka, but work at preserving it at all costs.

Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399), was very impressed by Soyuzivka and saw many positive changes, but advised that we work on this problem with the same enthusiasm as in the previous years. He also recommended installing telephones in rooms, provide activities for adults, and other things to encourage growth at Soyuzivka.

Tymko Butrej, (Br. 164), said that there was no one who didn't like Soyuzivka. He advised that if there was a deficit, and we could not afford to keep it, then we should sell it and buy another estate, closer to New York, and call it Soyuzivka.

Andrij Skyba, (Br. 399), advisor said that R. Lisovich had given a nice presentation, from which it was possible to see that we could save it, the problems were not fatal and that we would have to do things that had to be done. He promised, he would work toward this goal.

Wasył Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), advised that Soyuzivka could be sold to ourselves, so that it would not appear on the balance sheet of the UNA. To do this, each of us would have to invest a certain amount of money into the Soyuzivka fund. Only in this way, by thinking outside the box would we be able to save it.

Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381), said that she had been coming to Soyuzivka for 15 years, as a counselor of our children's camp. Last year, she heard that there was no need for these camps, because we already had sports, tennis and other camps. Lately she noticed that we were looking at Soyuzivka from the financial perspective, not from the vantage point of how a Ukrainian child benefits from Soyuzivka's activities. The “ptashata” last year filled up all the rooms in all of the buildings. Their parents wanted it and asked that more attention be paid to camps for children where Ukrainian traditions, language, history and culture were taught. Here at Soyuzivka, they could learn something beneficial and spiritually uplifting.

Vladimir Bakum, (Br. 172), asked concretely how many people would be needed, who by donating \$100, could cover the deficit.

The answer came from Wasył Szeremeta, 5,000 people would be needed to make a \$100 donation each.

Vladimir Bakum asked if there were 5,000 people, UNA'ers who could donate \$100 every year. Therefore, he concluded, that the only way to save it was with a foundation.

Paulo Prinko, (Br. 83), advisor advised to increase activity at Soyuzivka, and bring the new wave of immigrants, promoting it among the “Fourth Wave,” invite them to all sorts of events such as dances, evenings of music, invite singers from Ukraine, things which attract the new immigrants.

Rev. Myron Kotch, (Br. 39), recalled the slogan: (nema to yak na Soyuzivci) “There is no place like Soyuzivka.” He said that there was a tradition during every convention that the General Assembly would ask for a donation toward some charitable cause. He proposed that the delegates of the 36th Convention become the first members of this newly formed Soyuzivka foundation.

Sonia Krul, (Br. 15), also supported holding on to Soyuzivka, where she had worked a long time, her children had grown up and were married there. She asked how many people filled out the application that Maya Lew was distributing yesterday. She said that on the application it says that a person pledges \$30 a year and she hopes that every delegate contributes \$30 a year and reminded those who put the application in their pocket to fill it out as soon as possible.

Nick Fil, (Br. 13), talked about a conversation he had with the vice-premier of Ukraine, Mykola Dzulynsky, who thanked representatives from the diaspora for the extensive aid to Ukraine. He said that there will come a time when Ukraine would be helping Ukrainians abroad. Perhaps, it would be possible to arrange for children from Ukraine to come to Soyuzivka for rest, and that Ukraine would pay for their room and board, and possibly, this could attract the new wave of immigrants.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president, addressing the delegates, said that things were not hopeless. He said, we had to understand one thing: that “ptashata” camps and other cultural camps were beautiful. He wanted his two and half year old granddaughter, Oleksa, to be coming here for camp. We had to understand that half a million dollars a year subsidy was irresponsible. He did not want to sell. He only wanted us to understand the situation. Finances had to be taken into account.

It was true, he said, if 5,000 UNA members, and not only UNA members, but representatives of the Ukrainian community in U.S. and Canada donated \$100 each annually, or 500 people donated \$1000 each annually, then that would help us. But we had to remember, the money would only cover the operating costs: repairs, employees salaries; this money could not be used to renovate Soyuzivka or to build new buildings. Soyuzivka was 57 years old and huge sums of money would have to be invested to renovate.

We had a small number of Soyuzivka lovers, who came and helped. But the bottom line was, that the bills had to be paid! We should remember that if we lose another half million this year, could the UNA manage to stay alive? Alexander Serafyn said there was \$4.2 million left in the reserve. Let's say we lost a million this year, the next year another million. The auditors from the State of New Jersey would come and force us to merge. They would not allow us to lose four million dollars. We would be forced to merge and lose Soyuzivka anyway.

Soyuzivka is beautiful, yes. But if you didn't have money in your pocket, you couldn't buy a hamburger. The UNA has been subsidizing Soyuzivka for years, because, years ago UNA had many members. Now it does not have the money to cover Soyuzivka's expenses. Therefore, something radical has to happen. He still did not know what; maybe sell part of it; maybe build some buildings. In New York, the Plaza Hotel converted to condominiums, because it was financially convenient for them. These are the type of projects we should be thinking about.

Simply to hope for more people to start coming, that would not happen, he said. It was true, that more people have been coming the past four years, but at the same time the costs increased; there was more income, but costs of heating and insurance increased; additional expenses had to be paid. Without radical changes, we can not manage.

Maybe we could do something, but to keep Soyuzivka in the same condition as it was, he could not see how it would be possible. No small changes or small cost improvements would solve this. Revenue of half a million a year was only in order not to go into new debt. Every building at Soyuzivka needed extensive renovation and that meant millions of dollars. We had to look at this matter realistically, and changing the price of meals or adding another children's camp would not help. There would have to be a radical change in the financing of Soyuzivka.

Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414), advisor said that people were looking for their Ukrainian roots, Ukrainian culture for themselves and for their children. Those born in the U.S., may be interested in finding out about their heritage and wanted to know more about Ukrainian customs, and wanted to teach them to their children. Maybe we should have courses at Soyuzivka which included language, history, geography, culture, songs, dances, and other things. The children who had grown up here were bringing their children here. Gloria's son fell in love with Soyuzivka when he was a boy, now he was bringing his children here. It would be a good idea also to research a person's family tree because young people were interested in this. This applied also to those of non-Ukrainian ancestry. There were computers available to teach these courses at a very high level. It was important to keep Soyuzivka open all year, not only in the summer. We could be holding conferences and reunions for 100 to 200 persons.

Lew Bodnar, (Br. 131), said that he was impressed with Soyuzivka, which he saw for the first time. He thought that it would be a sin if ownership was transferred to strangers. He advised us to turn to the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), which was well off financially and which could hold its conferences and retreats here. He also advised us to advertise Soyuzivka in "Meest," which was widely read by new immigrants. Those who think that retirees could write big checks were mistaken. However, they could help. He promised to support Soyuzivka and send a check for a thousand dollars to the foundation. He supported ideas of Stefan Kaczaraj, that neither he, the National Secretary, nor the treasurer could work miracles. What was needed, he said, was a group of idealistic and hard working people. For this reason he was asking the delegates to vote for people who would be dedicated to work for the good of the UNA. Also, he continued, that to this time many Ukrainian immigrants were sending a lot of money to Ukraine since it became independent, now we could turn their attention to ourselves, since no one else would help us. The Ukrainian government would not do it, our children and grandchildren were here, and therefore we had to take care of them.

Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399), advised that we should be selling shares to Soyuzivka, then all Ukrainians could be part owners.

Myron Groch, (Br. 461), advisor said that everyone who spoke was correct. The General Assembly needed help from everyone. We were losing many people who were not coming to Soyuzivka, because many of them were going to Ukraine. Many of us were asking ourselves how we could help Ukraine. We had helped it a lot during the proper time. Now, he said, we had to begin to think about ourselves and he supported the idea of a foundation for Soyuzivka.

Sunday, May 28, 2006 evening a group photo and Convention Banquet were held at Veselka.

Monday, May 29, 2006, morning session, 9:00 a.m.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, explained the agenda for the day and introduced the chairman of the Financial Committee, Gerald Tysiak, to give committee report. Gerald Tysiak was greeted with warm wishes on the occasion of his birthday and with the delegates' singing "Mnohaya Lita" in his honor.

17. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE and DETERMINATION OF BONDING AND SALARIES OF PAID OFFICERS

Gerald Tysiak (Br. 13), Chairman of the Financial Committee, announced the membership of the committee: Wolodymyr Kozicky (Br. 8), Gloria Paschen (Br. 125/220), Michael Hrycyk (Br. 161) and Joseph Chabon (Br. 242), and its recommendations:

1. Refrain from giving a salary increase to paid executives.
2. Daily expense allowance for delegates shall be \$170 per day, mileage allowance \$0.485 per mile
3. Increase the fraternal dues to \$5.00 per year (currently in effect – \$3.00).
4. Earmark \$25.00, to be deducted from planned expenses allowance paid to each delegate during the present convention to support Soyuzivka and transfer these Funds to the Soyuzivka Foundation.

G. Tysiak also explained that the \$0.485 mileage for auto transportation was temporary, valid for this convention only. It would be adjusted depending on the change in the price of gasoline.

Recommendations of the Financial Committee were accepted by a majority vote.

18. ELECTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention, read the list of candidates to be submitted on the ballot for the final election. He made a motion for the list to be accepted by the convention. They were:

President – Stefan Kaczaraj
First Vice-President – Zenon Holubec
Second Vice-President – Michael Koziupa, Andriy Skyba
National Secretary – Christine E. Kozak
Treasurer – Roma Lisovich
Director for Canada – Myron Groch
Auditors – Gerald Tysiak, Wasyl Szeremeta, Wasyl Luchkiw

Nicholas Bobeczko, (Br. 102), seconded the motion.

The delegates voted on the above list of candidates that were to be submitted for a vote on the final ballot. The list was approved unanimously.

19. REPORT OF PETITIONS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTIONS

Julian Pishko, (Br. 385), chairman of the Petitions Committee, named the members of the committee: Zenowia Serafyn (Br. 175), Ulana Prociuk (Br. 397), Luba Keske (Br. 257/307), Irene Pryjma (Br. 292), and informed the convention that there were 11 petitions for the total sum of \$3,000.

1. SUM of Canada – \$350
2. Plast of Canada – \$350
3. Memorial for veterans of New Jersey – \$300
4. Ukrainian Museum in New York – \$200
5. Ukrainian Museum in Michigan – \$250
6. Immaculate Conception School in Michigan – \$350
7. Children's Camp "Gold Cross" – \$250
8. "Cheremosh" in Philadelphia – \$150
9. Ukrainian Association in California – \$400
10. "Cheremosh" from Minnesota – \$150
11. Ukrainian Cultural Center in Minneapolis – \$250.

Luba Keske, (Br. 257/307), from Los Angeles, Calif., informed the convention that she was extremely active in the Los Angeles Ukrainian community, aside from being the president of two UNA branches, she was the president of the Association to Aid Ukraine in Los Angeles, founded in 1991.

Lew Bodnar, (Br. 131), asked the delegates to consider a donation to the Ukrainian Saturday School in Chicago at St. Volodymyr Church – \$250.00 and also to the Ukrainian Saturday School at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral – \$200.00, because this was smaller.

Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399), proposed to give the same amount to each of the schools in order not to offend anybody.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly informed the delegates that in northern New Jersey a new Cultural Center is being built. Plast, SUM, a Ukrainian dance group and Ukrainian Saturday School would find their home there. That center, she said, was a unifying factor for the Ukrainian community and because this was a new project under construction, she asked to make an exception, and make a donation towards this center, even if it was symbolic.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention announced that new proposals would be discussed by the Petitions Committee and would be presented for review to the Executive Committee for presentation before the convention for a vote. He thanked the Petitions Committee for its work and asked the chairman of the Secretaries Committee, Eli Matiash, to the microphone.

20. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIES COMMITTEE, DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTIONS

Eli Matiash, (Br. 120), said that the report was in English and asked Oksana Trytjak to read it.

Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25), delivered the report of the Secretaries Committee. Members of the committee: Anna Buriy (Br. 402), Eli Matiash (Br. 120), Judy Hawryluk (Br. 360), Motria Milanytch (Br. 450), and Oksana Trytjak (Br. 25). She began by reading four resolutions:

1. The 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association hopes, that Branch secretaries would devote more of their time for recruitment of new members to the UNA.
2. The 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association hopes, that Branch secretaries, where possible, seek out new secretaries, to succeed them, when they are no longer able to perform their duties, and recommend these persons to members of their Branches.
3. The 36th Convention proposes a 5% refund of expenses to active Branch secretaries in 2005, who recruited a new member, and the 5% refund of expenses would be continued in 2007 to Branch secretaries who recruit three new members in 2006.
4. The 36th Convention emphasizes the importance of attendance of Branch secretaries orientation courses for all secretaries, at least one a year, attend a one day seminar featuring refresher courses sponsored by the UNA.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention proposed to put the four resolutions to a vote.

The delegates voted on the motion. The four resolutions were approved by a majority vote.

Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25), read the eight recommendations of the Secretaries Committee:

1. The Home Office is requested to periodically include in its communications to the Branch secretaries any changes in information about the members, maintain the names and addresses of the UNA members in an updated list, consistent with the current information on the membership.
2. It is absolutely necessary to supply Branch secretaries with visual materials, which would assist them in recruiting new members. Visual materials include printed promotional pamphlets, computer disks (CD), illustrations that promote the UNA.
3. Conserve policies, assist those members, who had stopped paying premiums (whose policies were three or fewer years in arrears), to return to good standing. Conservation of membership – reflects well to the credit of the secretary. Two conserved members would be equivalent to one newly recruited member.

4. Secretaries, who recruit members, to purchase additional coverage to their policies, will receive a commission for their efforts.

5. It is recommended that UNA give special consideration to secretaries, who have difficulty in recruiting new members, analyze their difficulties, and provide them with assistance.

6. Bring back the insurance column in "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly," which contains insurance information for readers, but would also serve to assist secretaries.

7. Renew the UNA two-language application.

8. Provide assistance to secretaries in recruitment of new members, by increasing the number of UNA ads in publications, on the radio and TV, especially in Canada.

Taras Szmagala, Sr. chairman of the convention proposed to put the eight recommendations of the Secretaries Committee to a vote.

The delegates voted on the motion. The eight recommendations were approved by a majority vote.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention announced the next item on the agenda, No. 21 – the reading of: resolutions and recommendations for the well being of the UNA.

21. RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE ORGANIZATION

Wasył Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), thanked the delegates of the 36th Convention, who submitted many good ideas and proposals to the Resolutions and Recommendations Committee. He explained that these proposals were only in English, because of the lengthy text and he could not find a good translator to do it in Ukrainian. Therefore, he asked George Soltys to the microphone to do a simultaneous translation or explanation of the document in Ukrainian.

1. Whereas the 33rd, 34th and 35th Conventions of the Ukrainian National Association passed resolutions, to erect a bust of the former Patriarch Mstyslav at Soyuzivka within one year after the conclusion of the Convention and whereas, the executive bodies elected by each of these Conventions had not carried out these resolutions of the highest jurisdictional body of the UNA, and whereas, these resolutions were accepted and binding, it is hereby decided, that the 36th Convention direct the Executive body, as one of its highest priorities, to erect the bust of Patriarch Mstyslav at Soyuzivka within one year after the conclusion of this convention.

Eli Matiash, (Br. 120), seconded the motion.

Gloria Paschen, (Br. 125/220), expressed the opinion that it was strange to do something new, when we were at crossroads. It did not make sense to erect one, two or three statues. If our finances had been in order, the resolution would not be unusual.

Alexander Redko, (Br. 130), said that the previous executives had given a detailed explanation why the statue was not erected, no one objected. He didn't think it was good to spend money on a statue, when we were in financial difficulties. He proposed to eliminate this resolution.

Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381), supported the resolution of the three previous conventions, who voted on the erection of the bust of Patriarch Mstyslav and said, that this matter once again should be raised to erect the bust of Patriarch Mstyslav.

Voting on the resolution.

First Resolution – to erect the bust of Patriarch Mstyslav passed by a majority of votes

2. Whereas, the official means of communication for the UNA "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly" represent the UNA and provide undeniable support for this organization and the Ukrainian community it is absolutely necessary to create an untouchable fund (an endowment fund) to ensure uninterrupted continuity of the publications.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president said that such a fund already existed and it was not necessary to create another fund.

Irene Jarosewich, Editor-in-Chief of Svoboda explained that in addition to the current operating fund, which already existed, we needed an untouchable fund, to which the community would be able to donate separately. This fund would provide insurance against additional unexpected expenses.

Second Resolution about creating an "untouchable fund" (an endowment) passed by a majority of votes.

3. Whereas, the official publications of the Ukrainian National Association "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly" represent this organization in the community, advertise its activities, the editors-in-chief of "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly" should be permitted to be present at meetings of the General Assembly and have the right to participate in discussions during the meetings in an advisory capacity.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer said that in the past, there had been difficulty with editors-in-chief of these publications, but today, she would deem it possible for the editors to take part in the activities of the General Assembly. She advised to replace words "should" with "may" (be present).

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76), explained how it was done in the credit union and that employees would leave the room when confidential matters relating to them were being discussed by the board of directors.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly answered Michael Koziupa's remarks, comparing the UNA's situation with the credit union's board of directors. She explained that we had a completely different system of government. The General Assembly was not equivalent to the board of directors of credit unions. She expressed the wish that editors had the right to attend meetings of the General Assembly. Only then would they be able to answer questions put to them by the General Assembly. She said that they did want membership in the General Assembly, but only a right to take

part in discussions regarding the operations of the publications. She said that they wanted only an advisory voice right now and she at the time did not have the right to say anything during the General Assembly, she could only give a report.

The motion was voted on. Third Resolution passed with a majority vote.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), announced the order which balloting would take place and explained the procedures for voting especially the operation of the voting machine. The delegates who had to leave earlier for the airport would be voting first.

Andrew Hrechak, (Br. 76), explained the procedures for voting, especially the operation of the traditional voting machine.

4. Whereas, the existence of the Ukrainian National Association depends on constant inflow of new members, as well as constant sale of insurance policies, and whereas, Branch secretaries represent, reflect a local presence and the existence of UNA in our communities, be it resolved, that Branch secretaries shall sell a minimum of three policies in a year, in order to remain a legitimate secretary. If the Branch secretary feels, that he/she is unable to meet this quota, he/she would be granted permission to appeal to the executive body of the UNA, to be excused from this obligation. Be it resolved, that the executive body of the UNA provide Branch secretaries with opportunity and instruction on how to be competitive with other insurance companies that sell similar products. To utilize these techniques and methods printed and electronic press (radio, publications, TV) ought to be used.

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary pointed out that the expression "shall sell a minimum of three policies a year," did not allow the executives to adjust this number, in case of illness, hospitalization or other serious reasons, when the secretary would not be able to meet this obligation. The executives could not be judges over branch secretaries – whether they were honestly doing their job or not.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president said that it would make no sense demanding a doctor's note from a secretary to excuse him from selling a policy because of illness.

The Resolutions Committee changed the Fourth Resolution and presented it as a recommendation.

The proposal was voted on.

Fourth Resolution – changed to a recommendation about Branch secretaries' production passed with a majority vote.

The fifth resolution was set aside, as additional work was needed on its language, wording, phrasing, style, expression, etc. The chair moved to discuss the sixth resolution.

Wasył Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), read the sixth resolution.

6. Whereas, the amendments to By-Laws proposed at the convention failed to receive sufficient time for consultation, discussion, review, and adequate consideration, be it resolved that the 36th Convention direct the executive body to send the proposed amendments to Branches for consideration and discussion 60 days before submitting it before the convention.

Tara Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention suggested that the above amendments to the By-Laws be published in "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly." The Resolutions Committee agreed to this added change.

Sixth Resolution – passed by a majority of votes.

7. Whereas, the By-Laws Committee performs a very important function in the life of the Ukrainian National Association, and whereas, the convention as such, is the highest jurisdictional body of our organization, and whereas, advisors, who have been elected by the convention, were requesting or expressed the desire to play a more active role in the UNA, be it resolved that the executive body delegate advisors who are interested to serve as members of the By-Laws, or Finance Committees.

George Soltys, (Br. 327), further explained this matter. There were some bodies of the UNA responsible for By-Laws, other bodies for carrying out the By-Laws, therefore we think that members of the committee should not be appointed by the executives, they should be elected by members. The best way would be to make use of advisors, because they were elected by the convention, to be members of one or the other committee.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention asked the parliamentarian Andrij Szul if resolution No. 7 did not constitute a change in By-Laws, and if that were the case, this should have been handled by the By-Laws Committee instead of the Resolutions Committee. He proposed to change the resolution to a recommendation for those, who in the future, would be working on changes and additions to the By-Laws.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358), auditor seconded the motion.

Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381), asked when changes to By-Laws could be made.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention answered that changes to By-Laws are done during the convention as part of the agenda, during this convention they have already been done. Regarding the recommendation, a decision on it would be considered at the next convention.

George Soltys, (Br. 327), explained that the Resolutions Committee had as its goal that advisors receive an assignment in the General Assembly.

Seventh resolution – as a recommendation to be decided at the next convention, to delegate advisors who are interested to serve as members of the By-Laws, or Finance Committees – passed unanimously.

Fifth Resolution, returning with an addition, was read and put to a vote.

Fifth Resolution – including an addition to the original resolution, be it resolved, that the By-Laws Committee disclose all recommendations to be submitted for action at a convention, including authors of the recommendations, also main points of argument "for" and "against" the recommendations, regardless of whether the By-Laws Committee agrees with the arguments or not. The convention had the right to receive complete information about changes to By-Laws the Committee recommends.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br 175), auditor seconded the motion.

Fifth Resolution – Passed by a majority of votes.

8. Be it resolved, that the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association supports the action of the national committee to commemorate the Ukrainian genocide, perpetrated in the years 1932-1933 and asks the Ukrainian National Association and us, delegates of the convention to take an active part in various measures to reach the American public, including all government institutions, press and the general public; be it also resolved, that the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association consider placing advertising in its publications, "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly," in order to support and spread information about the Ukrainian genocide in the years 1932-1933 in its papers and also advertise all activities or actions of the national committee organized to commemorate this event.

Eighth Resolution – The motion was seconded. Passed by a majority of votes.

10. Whereas, the time to conduct convention business is limited and many reports require a review in detail in order to follow the organization of its contents, be it resolved that the General Assembly send its reports to delegates 30 days before the beginning of the convention, to give delegates time to review the reports. Also be it resolved, that the minutes of the next Convention of the Ukrainian National Association be distributed to all delegates after six months after conclusion of this convention and the minutes be published in "Svoboda" and "The Ukrainian Weekly" as soon as possible.

Tenth Resolution – Passed by a majority of votes.

Eleventh Resolution was read and put to a vote.

11. Whereas, it is our duty as an organization, to strive to engender love for Ukrainian heritage and culture, and to strive to improve the education in Ukraine, particularly for young people, to give them an example, so that they would have knowledge about their national roots and cultural heritage, be it resolved, that we return to the so called cultural courses for secondary schools, similar to those which had been offered in the past at Soyuzivka, to provide instruction in language, heritage, geography, history and arts, consistent with the aims of the Heritage Foundation "Soyuzivka."

Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414), advisor seconded the motion.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president asked why we were proposing this recommendation or resolution when the Foundation had already been created and this matter had been decided upon.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention agreed with the president and proposed to eliminate this resolution.

Eleventh Resolution – about educating the youth about Ukrainian heritage and culture – was changed from a resolution to a recommendation, and passed in the new form as a recommendation, by a majority of votes.

9. Be it resolved, to select experienced organizers, to give instruction courses to those interested in recruiting new members. It is also proposed, that the program be organized by those with experience for the benefit of the inexperienced; it is recommended that web sites and Internet be utilized for this purpose.

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76), seconded the motion.

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary agreed with this idea, but only as a recommendation, rather than a resolution.

Albert Kachkowski, (Br. 444), director for Canada said that he had participated in complex discussions on these resolutions and recommendations, whose main goal was that we once in four years hear from chief organizers something personal about this topic: how they manage to recruit members, and achieve success.

Gloria Horbaty, (Br. 414), advisor also supported the proposal that branch secretaries should have meetings, where they could share experiences, which were beneficial for their work. C. Kozak could help us, give us something more, and advise us how we could do our job better. But not too many delegate secretaries came to the convention, maybe it would be better to provide instruction to branch secretaries on the Internet at their locations, so that they could learn at home.

Eugene Oscislawski, (Br. 234), advisor added that there should be responsibility in the managing and running of the convention. Often we sat around listening to well prepared reports, but what we should be doing if we wanted to increase our membership, was to teach people how to sell. It would be very possible, he said, at every convention to set aside two hours where secretaries could meet, to listen to ideas of those secretaries who know how to sell, to teach the organizers, and maybe we all could benefit from learning something new from these people.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358), auditor said that if anyone was interested, C. Kozak is very helpful. If you had a client and he needed help, we could help you. He also said that he could give other secretaries the benefit of his successful experience. He invited people to call him for advice in complicated situations involving insurance policies. He also advised people to take licensing courses, which he assured, that the tests were not difficult. It was interesting for a person to learn something new. He personally completed a course leading to an insurance sales license at his age as a retiree. He said that there were also licensed insurance salespersons working in the home office. They could also provide us with assistance.

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76), agreed, that the most important thing for secretaries was selling policies, but since our future secretaries would be young, it would be a good idea to have advice and tips about their work on the Internet. That part of his remarks could be considered a proposal. He said that UNA had to have an Internet site for the purpose to provide help for secretaries.

Tymko Butrej, (Br. 164), said that he had been a Branch secretary for 16 years, and had success. He said that he had built up three Branches and no one inquired to him

about his successes. He said that one must be polite, humble, not bragging about his educational achievements, how many doctorates one had, which in itself would not sell a member. He advised that we should be getting advice not from braggarts, but from those who had real experience

Ninth Resolution – instruction by exchange of experiences among Branch secretaries.

Passed by a majority of votes.

12. Whereas, it was very important that UNA convention delegates understood and were informed, who were candidates to various positions, be it resolved, that during the election all candidates for office, present themselves to the chairman of the Elections committee with their intentions to run for office. The Elections Committee then would create a list of ballots and print them and additional ballots if necessary.

Christine E. Kozak, national secretary, seconded the motion.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358) auditor said that in his opinion, a resolution should consist of something on which the executive body could work in the next four years for the next convention. A recommendation could be completed, if there was such a thing, which had to be done before the next convention. Therefore, he thought that the proposed twelfth resolution looked more like a recommendation, rather than a resolution.

Alexander Redko, (Br. 130), said that he did not know whether he would be running for office but that his name was submitted on the ballot.

Michael Koziupa, (Br. 76), said that during voting we needed to make use of electronic technology.

12th Resolution – candidates for elected positions and the submission of their personal qualifications and aims to the chairman of the Elections Committee – passed by a majority of votes.

Recommendations:

1. That Soyuzivka should lower the price of meals for seniors.

2. That the executive body continue to review all of our insurance policies and compare them with products of other insurance companies. That information should be disseminated and forwarded to Branch secretaries, who would help sell these products and recruit new future members.

3. Because energy is very expensive and was part of Soyuzivka's expenses, that the management of Soyuzivka should continue to utilize all possible methods, to ensure, that Soyuzivka become as energy efficient as possible.

4. If feasible from geographical point, that advisors become active in the work of the executive body.

5. That during the summer, employees of the UNA have a booth at Soyuzivka, where they would disseminate information regarding the UNA and insurance sold by the UNA.

6. That in every room and space used for meetings and conferences, Soyuzivka should have current state of the art communication devices: such as telephone, cable TV and Internet.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175) auditor seconded the motion on all six recommendations.

Longin Staruch, (Br. 172), proposed family rates, for those with two or more children, with the aim to attract families to stay at Soyuzivka.

Lew Bodnar, (Br. 131), recommended that a proposal be sent from the UNA to Victor Yushchenko regarding the use of Ukrainian as the official language.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention pointed out that Lev Bodnar's proposal was off topic, that at the present time we were discussing the first recommendation to lower the price of meals for seniors at Soyuzivka.

1) Vote on the First Recommendation – to lower price of meals for seniors: failed.

2) Vote on the Second Recommendation – to review UNA policies, compare them with the competition and forward information to Branch secretaries, who would help sell these products and recruit new future members: passed unanimously.

3) Vote on the Third Recommendation – to utilize all possible methods, to ensure, that Soyuzivka becomes as energy efficient as possible: passed by a majority of votes

4) Vote on the Fourth Recommendation – that advisors become active in the work of the executive body: passed unanimously.

5) Vote on the Fifth Recommendation – that during the summer, employees of the UNA have a booth at Soyuzivka, where they would disseminate information regarding the UNA and insurance sold by the UNA: passed by a majority of votes.

Discussion on Sixth Recommendation

Bohdan Kukuruza, (Br. 399) said that there should be communication between Soyuzivka rooms and buildings, at least an internal intercom system, if costs allow.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president said that the sixth recommendation was self-explanatory. If we want to have good business, we should have all of these things, but the question was, whether there would be enough funds for these things.

Vladimir Bakum, (Br. 172), said that it was impossible for every room to have Internet, because of the costs, all of these amenities were available in Soyuzivka's Main House building and people should come there to use them if necessary.

6) Vote on the Sixth Recommendation – that in every room and space used for meetings and conferences, there should be telephone, cable TV and internet – : failed to achieve majority of votes.

George Soltys, (Br. 327), said the difference between a resolution and a recommendation was that a resolution was mandatory, whereas a recommendation was not mandatory. It meant something could be done if possible. He advised not to waste time on discussions of recommendations.

Wasył Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), read the seventh recommendation, an additional one and translated it.

Seventh Recommendation: That the Convention not be scheduled during holidays and weekends, as in case of the 36th Convention.

The rationale was that transportation on weekends was more expensive and that for those traveling by car, there was a lot of traffic on the road and more dangerous to travel. From another point of view, people would have to ask for additional days off from work.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358), auditor seconded the motion.

Discussion on the recommendation ensued.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly made a point that we had wasted one day, which meant that there was no need for four days. Three days would have been sufficient. There was no need for such an elaborate entertainment program, although it was beautiful. If we had a three day convention, people would not have had to ask for an additional day off from work.

7) Vote on the Seventh Recommendation – that conventions not be scheduled during holidays and weekends, as in case of the 36th Convention: **recommendation failed.**

Wasył Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), read the Eighth recommendation:

Eighth recommendation: that the manager of Soyuzivka will have an opportunity to participate in meetings of the General Assembly and have the right to speak during these meetings.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention proposed that the manager of Soyuzivka attend the meetings of the General Assembly and appear only during conflicting situations.

Alexander Redko, (Br. 130), asked for a clarification of the recommendation, asking if he understood it properly.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention explained the recommendation.

Irene Jarosewich, Editor-in-Chief of Svoboda said that as hired employees they were required to report to the General Assembly about what happened since the previous convention. Aside from that, she said that they had to attend the meeting in order to write about them, so that the readers know what happened there. Therefore, that was why they had to attend the meeting.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention explained that the question about participation of editors in the work of the General Assembly had been considered already. Now under consideration was the manager of Soyuzivka, what were his rights and the recommendation before the General Assembly was, did he have a right to attend the meeting, give his report, answer any questions, say thank you and leave, as he was not part of the General Assembly.

Wasył Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), pointed out the fact that Wasył Kolodchin explained the recommendation incorrectly, the point of which was, that the manager of Soyuzivka was obliged to attend the meeting of the General Assembly. He always had that right, whenever he was asked to report on Soyuzivka, and it was not necessary to have any recommendation, because that was the way it had to be. The recommendation was submitted so that he would have the unquestioned right to attend the meeting, not with a right to vote, but in order to take part in discussions in an advisory capacity.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention added that the manager of Soyuzivka may, but he was not required to attend the meeting, aside from that, he did not have a vote.

8) Vote on the Eighth Recommendation – about the rights of the manager of Soyuzivka in relation to the General Assembly: **passed by a majority vote.**

Wasył Szeremeta, (Br. 247/347), read the ninth recommendation submitted by the Detroit District Committee.

Ninth Recommendation: that our convention recommend that the Ukrainian National Association stop subsidizing Soyuzivka as of June 30, 2007 and report on the situation of its operation every two months beginning August 2006.

Vasył Luchkiw, (Br. 16), advisor seconded the motion.

Volodymyr Kozicky, (Br. 8), said that he did not like this proposal and would not support it, because the Soyuzivka Foundation had hardly been created and become strong. We had to give it some time to work and the recommendation did not make sense, because it didn't say what we should be doing with Soyuzivka – whether to shut it down or to disassociate ourselves from it. He was of the opinion that we had not discussed its status enough and a lot of time was wasted on less important matters.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175), auditor reminded us yesterday about his statements and the president's comments about the future of Soyuzivka and the UNA. The delegates heard our financial situation and there was no sense repeating it. He said we were in a critical situation unless we did away with the annual loss of \$600,000 at Soyuzivka and we should not be wishfully thinking that somehow things would turn out all right. He continued that we had only four million dollars in reserve. Together with the losses from publications, the annual deficit was one million dollars. The reserve could last us for four years and after that, if we did not do anything, there would be no UNA. He said we were not talking about Soyuzivka, but the future of the Ukrainian National Association.

Michael Bohdan, (Br. 133), pointed out that the decision should be made now, because there may not be another convention.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), asked if everyone had voted near the voting machine and asked those who had not voted to do so.

Maya Lew, (Br. 5), said that it was clear to everyone what would happen if we do not get enough members – a major problem for the UNA. She urged everyone to try to get more people to become active members of the newly created Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president said that if we continue to subsidize Soyuzivka, the UNA would be forced to merge. The only way to save Soyuzivka would be to let the community take over some of the financial obligations in the form of donations.

Vladimir Bakum, (Br. 172), said the resolution from Detroit was very pessimistic and expressed surprise at what the president had said. He said that the foundation could save Soyuzivka. What was needed was that everyone present donate \$200 to the foundation and thereby help it. He said that we had to give the foundation a chance and he announced that he and his wife today had become members of the foundation and donated \$200.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention passed on the explanation from the parliamentarian that we were not passing a resolution, but only a recommendation, a preference.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly supported the opinion of V. Bakum that we needed to give the foundation a chance to work. She said that she had not heard any concrete proposals at the convention: what should we be doing next. A lot of discussion and exchanges of ideas had taken place – that was positive, very nice, but she had not heard any concrete proposals on how to save Soyuzivka, from the side of the executives, General Assembly or even from the Detroit district, which now is urging to close down Soyuzivka. She asked that we vote down this recommendation. She said, also that her whole family enrolled as members of the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

Olya Czerkas, (Br. 381), said that we should not be selling off parts of the whole body, because we could not stand the pressure. We had an insurance company, we had Soyuzivka and the publications. She urged that we should keep it all together as one body, because in unity there was strength.

Luba Keske, (Br. 257/307), said that although she traveled to this convention from far away Los Angeles, she had grown up here in New Jersey. She said she had not come for the Soyuzivka funeral, where she had worked for 20 years. We said, here at Soyuzivka, we had a place for the rearing of our children. We also had obligations to our children and grandchildren to teach them our culture, especially here. She also said that although her husband was not a Ukrainian, he had been devoting a lot of time with the Ukrainian community, especially in church-related activities. If we continue to work promoting our culture, we would set an example, which other nationalities would follow, because they would see that we had great respect for our culture and values, things that were important.

Motria Milanytch, (Br. 450), proposed that the representatives from the foundation would inform us if they could actually be able to finance Soyuzivka for the next year. It would be useful to hear how much money had been collected to date. Then we could decide whether we should vote for the recommendation or not. Was it realistic for the foundation to finance the next year, she asked. She said that the foundation would have to have a plan. If they had a plan to raise half a million dollars for the next year and then raise the same amount for year 2008 and so on, until the next convention, maybe then we could carry out this proposal.

Maya Lew, (Br. 5), said she believed in its success, because we had no choice but to raise our activity to a higher level to save Soyuzivka, especially to strengthen the foundation. She gave advice about how to raise the level of activity around Soyuzivka, introducing new ways to speed up work: inviting fourth wave Ukrainians and events, which were particularly of interest to them, youth activities and children's holidays such as Halloween, meetings, reunions, conferences, senior reunions, etc. She expressed her belief that the delegates would not forget this problem, after they arrived home, but would continue to help and enlist other people to join them.

Zenon Holubec, (Br. 358), auditor pointed out the fact that the recommendation states that the UNA would stop their subsidy, as of June 30, 2007, i.e. a year and a month after today, but nothing about closing of Soyuzivka. He asked whether we would be willing to discuss this topic emotionally and hold on to Soyuzivka, until UNA ceased to exist. It was a matter whether the UNA would stop existing, not Soyuzivka. He also had become a member of the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation and believed that the Ukrainian community would come to understand the situation and help save Soyuzivka. It was the matter of saving the UNA, which was more important than Soyuzivka.

Albert Kachkowski, (Br. 444), director for Canada repeated that it was all about the fate of the UNA. He said that the way we support our churches, is the way we should be supporting Soyuzivka, and not to separate it temporarily from the UNA so that it did not ruin the UNA financially. He reminded us, that the foundation would be a separate business, with people who would be running it and it's own employees, we would have to have a staff, who knew how to run it.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175), auditor made a motion to end the discussion.

Gerald Tysiak, (Br. 13), seconded the motion.

Voting on the proposal to end discussion – proposal passed by a majority of votes. The discussion was closed.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention said that the discussion was long and everyone had his own ideas and preferences, therefore he recommended that every delegate continue this discussion at their Branch and district meetings and forward their recommendations to the General Assembly or to the president of the UNA.

Voting on the Ninth Recommendation.

Ninth Recommendation: that our convention recommend that the Ukrainian National Association stop subsidizing Soyuzivka as of June 30, 2007 and that it report on the situation, its operation every two months beginning August 3, 2006.

The proposal failed.

22. MISCELLANEOUS

Vasył Luchkiw, (Br. 16) advisor reminded everyone present, that today was a great holiday in the United States: Memorial Day. What was this day about? It was a day on which we recalled those who had given their lives for their country. He asked all of

the veterans of the various wars to stand: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Ukrainian members of the Halychyna Division and UPA. He reminded us that all of them fought in battles for a better life. He asked everyone to acknowledge them with a greeting. The delegates gave them a round of applause. He reminded us that in this country a moment of silence was observed at 3 p.m. in honor of those who fell in battle. A moment of silence was observed.

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention declared all items on the agenda had been dealt with. He then explained, that only the elections results and adjournment remained.

Myron Groch, (Br. 461), advisor proposed that after the reading of the election results, we should have the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected members of the General Assembly and adjourn the convention.

Gloria Paschen, (Br. 125/220), seconded the motion.

Taras Szmagala Sr., co-chairman of the convention put the proposal to a vote.

Results of voting on the motion: **motion failed.**

Tymko Butrej, (Br. 164), said that we had not had a discussion on the future of the UNA.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), thanked the members of the Elections Committee for a job well done and presented each member of the committee and their place of residence: Andrij Hrechak (Br. 76), Newark, N.J.; Nadia Salabay (Br. 155), Morris Plains, N.J.; Oksana Koziak (Br. 47), Bethlehem, PA; Christine Brodyn (Br. 27) Springfield, N.J.; Cecilia Kachkowski (Br. 444), Saskatoon, SK, Canada; Oksana Lew (Br. 5), New York, N.Y.; Bohdan Doboszczak (Br. 59), Bridgeport, Conn.; Stefan Lysiak (Br. 283), Auburn, N.Y.; Ihor Kobil (Br. 412), St. Catharines, Ont., Canada; Bohdan Odezynskij (Br. 216), Philadelphia, Pa.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), Warren, Mich., said that 108 delegates voted, and asked Andrij Hrechak to read the results.

Andrij Hrechak, (Br. 76), reported on the results of the Final Election.

Final Election Results:

President: Stefan Kaczaraj – by Acclamation

First Vice-President: Zenon Holubec – by Acclamation

Second Vice-President: Michael Koziupa – 54

Director for Canada: Myron Groch – by Acclamation

National Secretary: Christine E. Kozak – by Acclamation

Treasurer: Roma Lisovich – by Acclamation

Auditors: Gerald Tysiak, Wasyl Szeremeta, Wasyl Luchkiw – all voted in by Acclamation

Advisors:

Maya Lew – 87 votes	Albert Kachkowski – 75
Gloria Horbaty – 84	Pavlo Prinko – 61
Nicholas Fil – 79	Bohdan Kukuruza – 59
Eugene Oscislawski – 79	Eugene Serba – 54
Myron Pylypiak – 78	Serguei Djoula – 51.
Olya Czerkas – 77	

Andrij Hrechak, (Br. 76), said that at the request of the delegates, he would read the list of candidates for various posts and the number of votes received for those who were not elected:

Second Vice-President: Andrij Skyba – 42 votes

Advisors: Julian Pishko – 46 votes, Alexander Redko – 44 votes, George Soltys, 40 votes, Michael Bohdan – 39 votes, Paul Romanowych – 14 votes,

Taras Szmagala Sr., chairman of the convention announced discussion on the Topic: UNA – Shaping the Future.

16. DISCUSSION: “UNA – SHAPING THE FUTURE”

Wasyl Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention said that for the most part, the persons participating in discussions are the same people. The people who haven't spoken up yet may also have good ideas, and he said, that here was an opportunity for them to speak their mind.

Oksana Trytjak, (Br. 25), said that the new members, whom we want to recruit, were new immigrants and young people with children. We did not know much about those who live far from the centers of Ukrainians. They may have problems, about which we don't know much. Those living in this area had Soyuzivka, where in the summer there were ten different types of camps for children. Also, there were parents, relatives, grandparents who came along bringing the children of various ages to the various camps suitable for different ages at Soyuzivka. During holidays there were so many people, who were staying at Soyuzivka, and among them were many young people. Our publications, UNA and Soyuzivka are all interconnected she said, and if we wanted to have new members we needed Soyuzivka.

Tymko Butrej, (Br. 164.) said that without “Svoboda” he could not imagine the UNA. He advised to raise the price of “Svoboda” from \$45 to \$50. In the same way we should raise the price of the “The Ukrainian Weekly.” He said that he paid \$150 annually for the local English-language paper, and he remarked that the UNA publications were a bargain.

George Soltys, (Br. 327), said that this was a strange convention. There was only one candidate for office and the things that he heard about the UNA were: inflation, the value of the Canadian dollar and that secretaries were not working enough to recruit new members. If anyone in the U.S.A. wanted to be elected to a position, he could from time to time not be telling the truth, but may be saying that he would do something concrete when elected. For example, George Soltys continued, that he had not heard anything like this from the president of the UNA: what he planned to do; the only thing he heard from him, was: that things were going badly, but, it looked that it would have been good to

get rid of Canada. That was negative. He would like to hear about 3-4 election promises about something positive. Therefore, G. Soltys asked the president of the UNA to step up and tell us about 3-4 steps which he planned to take to improve the situation.

Wolodymyr Kozicky, (Br. 8), expressed the opinion that delegates had come to this convention with a heavy burden, about which we didn't do anything during the days we spent here. We talked a lot about problems, but they were not solved. For four days we discussed things which were less important, but the most important things, we left for the executives. It appears that we are left with the same problems. We needed, he said, to hold on to the UNA, but without the press and Soyuzivka, the UNA did not have much of a future. He said, we had to save it. He suggested that upon arrival home in our own localities, we should be using all possible means to help the UNA. We should be looking for funds. If we each donated \$100, that still would not be much. We would have to make up a slogan: “Save our heritage!” He said that our diaspora had dedicated a lot of time and donated a lot of money to help Ukraine. All of that was necessary, but we were here, on a tiny part of Ukraine, and had to educate our youth to be active in our community so that we could win and receive support from the U.S. government. But all of this would require a lot of work. We saw, he said, that there was the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Ukrainian Catholic University, The Ostroh Academy, in Ukraine...all of these necessary institutions, into which we had invested our money. But we had forgotten that we had to raise our funds here at Soyuzivka in order to hold on to that which we had.

We were proud of our youth organizations, of Soyuzivka, he said, we were always showing it off when someone came here, that it was ours. If we did not save it, we would have nothing to be proud of. Announcing that he would be a delegate to the convention of Federation of Ukrainian Credit Unions of America in Washington, he said, that people thought that credit unions were able to donate a lot of money to community causes. In reality, credit unions also had to report to U.S. Government agencies and were accountable for their work, but credit unions did donate hundreds of thousands of dollars for community causes, but we could look into this source. He thought that we could ask the credit union where he worked, which paid off \$100,000 debt for the SUM estate. He thought that we should ask the Ukrainian credit unions in the U.S. to help Soyuzivka pay its debts.

Nicholas Fil, (Br. 13), advised that we should write to the Ukrainian Orthodox metropolitan and ask that the faithful take up a collection to construct a monument in honor of Patriarch Mstyslav at Soyuzivka. This way that problem would be solved and it would result in increase of UNA members, because people who donated funds for the monument would visit Soyuzivka and would join the UNA.

His second piece of advice, was to write to lawyers, medical doctors, and other Ukrainian organizations, to donate certain funds to Soyuzivka to defray expenses. He invited everyone to come to Soyuzivka for Father's Day, the third Sunday of June. He said that he was organizing a trip to Soyuzivka on that day and bringing about 100 people to celebrate this day.

He also proposed that people patronize the Soyuzivka boutique and purchase a gift or a souvenir. This would be an added benefit. It would also be a good idea to advertise scholarships for students to attract people to us.

Roman Kuropas, (Br. 20), said that it was good to be a realist, but also to have faith. We had plans that we could fulfill, he said, and we did not need negativism. We knew what was wrong, but if there was a will, we could do anything. We had existed as an organization longer than any other, Ukraine looked with hope at America, at our accomplishments, we had generations and generations behind us, we had about 40 thousand members, the best specialists in America and the world. Among them were his children and many of their friends. These would gladly come forth with ideas and help us, but we would have to treat them with respect, not look down on them as inexperienced “gringos,” as we were once treated. We had to consolidate our strengths.

Roman Kuropas also urged us to get involved in countering the negative things that were happening in Ukraine, where some provinces were establishing Russian as a state language. We had to write letters, urge our congressmen to state their opinion in this matter. We had to defend Ukrainian as a world language, no matter where we were living. He said that we and previous generations had worked hard here and in Ukraine to preserve our national identity. We needed to utilize mass media to bring our problems to light.

Julian Kotlar, (Br. 42) pointed out that the most important subjects on the agenda at this convention were: Soyuzivka and UNA. He gathered from the reports that there was only one solution for Soyuzivka, i.e. sell it. He said that this was his fifth convention and he recalled that some of the UNA's assets had been sold and the amount realized had vanished. The money gained from the proceeds of the sale of Soyuzivka would serve us for a few years and would also vanish.

Lubov Steletsky, (Br. 10), said that she had been living and working among the new immigrants for 16 years. She couldn't tell whether that was a good or a bad thing. In her area there were more new Ukrainians than those from previous immigrations. There were about 300,000 people from Slavic origin and they were all potentially our clients. It was difficult to say how many people were working in their midst. She reminded us that beautiful speeches would not save the UNA that we had to sell insurance. We had to have a market and people working that market.

She explained that the recent newcomers were as Ukrainian as we were, but they had grown up in a different country, in different times, their Ukrainian was different from ours, she noted that we had to talk in the language which they understood. Their entire life they had to pay for insurance, which were government schemes to fool them and take their money, and they got no benefit from them. When they arrived here they were being asked again to buy our insurance, and in their minds, this was just another scheme to fool them and take their money. First of all, we would have to explain to them that there was a difference between the insurance in Ukraine and our insurance. It would have to be explained just not in words but through concrete examples.

She said that she had been to Ukraine two weeks ago that at the airport they would not let her go through and that she had to buy health insurance if she was not a Ukrainian citizen. She asked what benefit would she get from this insurance, the

answer was: none, but that she had to buy it. She said that she did not buy it, because she did not have to, but people ahead of her and behind her in line were buying this insurance. Therefore Ukrainians from there already knew that you paid and didn't get anything for it. For these people, she said, we would have to develop a strategy to understand them, not complain about them, and have compassion for them.

She also made another point, that she could not sell term insurance, because it was more expensive, compared to American insurance companies.

As for Soyuzivka, the foundation was a good thing, but that meant that we were collecting money to cover deficits. It would have been better, she said, if we did not have these deficits.

Olga Maruszczak, (Br. 82), said that today we were facing problems with Soyuzivka and our UNA and press, which threatened its very existence. She was of the opinion that we should not be putting great faith in the power of the foundation, because every delegate should find someone to insure. She said that the people in Detroit were saying that they were already supporting two estates in their area. Taxes on all of the estates had risen. None of the delegates gave any concrete solutions, she said, during the discussion.

If today we were to choose between UNA with the press, without which we could not get along, and Soyuzivka, which would we choose, she asked. She admitted that it was a difficult problem and in this instance, she would have chosen the UNA and the press. She continued that we could exist without Soyuzivka, but not without the press. She advised the leadership of the UNA to make decisions about this problem and inform the members about its decision, its direction in the future, how or if we would exist. That was a difficult financial problem, which, she said, was impossible to solve here in one day.

Gerald Tysiak, (Br. 13), advised to sell Soyuzivka to people who live in this area. He said that we had heard of the fourth wave of immigration. He said that many of them were of different religions and churches. We should make it clear to them that Soyuzivka was not owned by only Catholics, but that they were all equally welcome here. If it were possible to dedicate a spot for them, then we should do it. Whether Ukrainians were from Cleveland, Washington or Boston – there was a place for them here at Soyuzivka, to have reunions and other gatherings. It would be good to advertise these reunions widely. There were many young people, he said, living in New York or in Philadelphia; it would be good for them to hold meetings here as get-togethers for friends.

He also said that secretaries should be finding, in advance, their young successors. It would be good to have someone from the fourth wave. We should also advertise that we were looking for people, willing to learn, to work with other people and earn some money.

About Soyuzivka, he said, there was a lot to be fixed, including the decorative changes that were made and most buildings were in need of renovations. Some people would like to have their names or parents names memorialized on plaques of new or renovated buildings, or other renewed structures. He advised to use these means for raising money.

He also advised the delegates to seek out firms, which had meetings in the fall or in the winter, and invite them to Soyuzivka.

Peter Serba, (Br. 173) recommended that the UNA not increase the price of Svoboda, because it was read mostly by retirees. When last year there was an increase, we had lost many readers, and again we could lose more. He also asked that when someone calls the home office, that the employees not switch the caller to an automatic voice mail. These messages say that we should leave a message and the person would get back to the caller. The caller, he said, then was forced to change all of his plans and wait half a day or even the whole day, until a living human being hears the message and answers them.

Martha Lysko, First Vice-President thanked everyone for the long years of cooperation and made several points:

First, she was very surprised that people who get elected to the General Assembly were asking the executives to give them something to do. Every one of us, who allowed him/herself to be elected, had knowledge of this area, knew his abilities and possibilities and had to work.

Also, she wanted to focus attention that every member of the General Assembly update his insurance policy. Was it a \$500 policy bought by their grandmother 30 years ago? Since then we had been selling 30 different policies. Were we running to Prudential to buy our insurance? Why do we have so few policies? Before we begin to look what to do in the future, we should be looking at ourselves. If every one of us bought a sizable policy, then a lot of things would improve.

And finally, she came to a conclusion that amid many negatives, we had a huge positive: we had many dedicated multi-generational UNA – members, children succeeding parents. She hoped, that those from the new generation would initiate work and not ask someone to tell them what to do.

Alexander Serafyn, (Br. 175) auditor asked two questions:

First: about the Press Committee, under the chairmanship of Taras Szmagała Sr., decided last year to increase the subscription rates to our papers by \$5. Why was that decision not carried out, he asked.

Second: about the recommendations submitted by Walter Prochorenko, who was hired six months ago to work for Svoboda, and was discharged recently. What had happened to those recommendations, and what would happen to them in the future and how soon?

Stefan Kaczaraj, president answered Alexander Serafyn's questions, explaining for the benefit of other delegates, that the success of UNA publications was due to the good work of the employees, technical improvements, and better work of the advertising department. He also explained that there was no price increase, because there were papers in the diaspora that came to the reader at no cost, i.e. "Meest," "Zakordonna Gazeta" and others.

At that point, I. Jarosewich interrupted with her comment that they had not raised the prices so as not to lose subscribers. She also explained, that Walter Prochorenko, who was employed by them, had calculated the financial operations of the newspapers and advised that we make the paper even less expensive and consequently increase the number of subscribers, advising to lower the price to \$25 a year for the sake of increasing the number of subscribers.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president continued speaking about Soyuzivka and expressed the

hope that Soyuzivka would improve with the help of the community and the newly created foundation. He also said that the UNA planned to advertise not only in our papers, but also in U.S.-based Polish, Russian and other ethnic papers, to interest people in Soyuzivka. He also informed us, that there were plans to have interested families sponsoring the renovation of buildings at Soyuzivka. These families would have the use of these buildings for two or three weeks out of the year, and the remainder of the time, Soyuzivka would continue its operations. He said that there was a possibility to build condominiums at Soyuzivka, but there was a need to invest in the building to start the construction, because neither Soyuzivka nor the UNA could do that.

He advised that we advertise in form of booklets, video tape cassettes, DVD's, and distribute them to people, so that they could see the beauty and amenities offered by Soyuzivka. Additionally, the 11 advisors elected at this convention, who would return to the field and begin work in their communities on the improvement of the UNA and Soyuzivka status by holding two or three meetings with the community, which would help in recruitment of new members. If they felt responsible then they would have to do something. The UNA needs professional salesmen. If we were to look more diligently for them, not only among Ukrainians, but also other Slavic groups, our market would broaden. He expressed the hope that if we did all of these things better, then our situation would also improve. He also said that we should hold another convention here at Soyuzivka and that Soyuzivka then would be in our hands.

Roma Lisovich, treasurer said a few words, answering Nicholas Fil, that the executives already had a new, young, experienced advisor, who would handle marketing. She asked that delegates not exaggerate our negatives and not spread information about Soyuzivka with a pessimistic attitude, so that people would not be saying that it would cease to exist in a year. People, who plan weddings or reunions at Soyuzivka inform us six months or earlier and make plans in advance. Such negative stories could ruin the continued work of Soyuzivka. For example, a Ukrainian medical association reserved their convention for the next year at this time. She would not want them to change their minds and that these negative rumors not reach them.

An unidentified delegate made a motion to close the discussion. The motion was seconded by another unidentified delegate.

The proposal to close discussion was passed by a majority of votes.

Wasył Kolodchin, co-chairman of the convention advised that the Press Committee, upon returning home, to write widely about the UNA and to accentuate the positives and spread the good word about our organization.

Roma Hadzewycz, (Br. 287/340), Editor-in-Chief of The Ukrainian Weekly informed the convention that she would write an English-language press release, which would be translated into Ukrainian and sent to other newspapers, names of which would be supplied by delegates in one or both languages. She asked delegates to approach the table where the UNA press reps were sitting and supply them with addresses of local papers.

Taras Szmagała Sr., chairman of the convention told us about his family, that his father, himself, and his son, dedicated themselves and continue to dedicate themselves to work for the benefit of the UNA. Therefore, he was not indifferent to the history of the UNA. He gave his word to Bohdan Odezynski to let him say a few words about the preservation of the history of UNA.

Bohdan Odezynskij, (Br. 216), said that Oksana Trytjak collected archival-photographs, which were part of our history. His daughter was working for John Deere, where they had an exhibit of various things, which go into the past. He proposed that the UNA governing body collect various things, which we had, because when we, the older generation pass away, our history would disappear with us. This was, he said, also part of Ukrainian history as well as that of the U.S.A. The medal of Rev. Hrushka, or even announcements of former president Lesawyer, or pencils, pens. He urged that we look for these things, and ask the executive body of the UNA to collect them. That was our treasure. It would be good to send them to Ukraine, to show them, that we had a history. He thanked M. Lysko and N. Salabay, who were of great help to him as secretary.

Taras Szmagała Sr., chairman of the convention asked Stefan Hawrysz, the honorary member of the General Assembly, to administer the swearing in of newly elected members of the General Assembly.

Stefan Hawrysz, advisor, (Br. 83) led the ceremony according to the By-Laws of the UNA:

I, (here every one states his first and last name) swear before Almighty God, that I, (the name of the office) will honestly and faithfully fulfill my duties and obligations, as such (officer) of the Ukrainian National Association, that I will always observe, comply with and obey the rules and regulations, and laws of the Ukrainian National Association; that I will protect and defend the good name of the association; that I will endeavor to promote its welfare, and to the best of my ability, work for the good of the Ukrainian National Association. So help me God. Amen.

Tara Szmagała Sr., chairman of the convention gave the floor to Stefan Kaczaraj, the newly re-elected president of the UNA, before the adjournment of the convention.

Stefan Kaczaraj, president said: Honored delegates, from the bottom of my heart I would like to express my sincere thanks for your confidence in me and for electing me president of the Ukrainian National Association for the next four year term. Again and again I am calling on you, in the community of the North American continent and in the whole world, to unite, to join in a common effort, in common aims and common interests. Let us remain together for the next four years! I with you and you with me! Thank you!

23. ADJOURNMENT

With the singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem, which was begun by Swiatoslawa Kaczaraj, the 36th Convention was adjourned on May 29, 2006.

Andre J. Worobec, English-language secretary, 36th Convention of the UNA