



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 69 NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2022

75th Annual UOL Convention - hosted by Sts. Peter and Paul UOL Chapter in Carnegie, PA



The 75th UOL Convention was memorable for so many reasons! We had not joined together for two years and sponsored virtual Conventions rather than gather together. Our Carnegie chapter has been preparing for several years and they are to be commended for planning a Convention that was fantastic! The UOL Convention started on Wednesday July 27, 2022 and UOL members gathered at the Double Tree Hotel outside Carnegie. It was a wonderful time for delegates and guests from chapters and parishes throughout the country to gather, enjoy each other and also discuss issues of critical importance to our Church.

Over the course of the convention approximately 150 faithful and clergy gathered for meetings and wonderful social events. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel actively took part in all aspects of the Convention. It was wonderful to come to the UOL Convention and to be greeted by two smiling faces, registration committee members Alice Sivulich and Cindy Haluszczak. The registration committee welcomed every individual with a packet of UOL materials. The registration committee also chaired a fantastic basket raffle with over two dozen beautiful baskets. The basket raffle has become a lovely way for chapters to assist with convention fundraising.

While the Senior and Junior Executive Boards had meetings the Convention committee set up a wonderful shop with items, including books, religious items, Ukrainian embroidery and other cultural items for sale the entire Convention. Fr. Deacon Evan O'Neil also set up a wonderful interactive display from 75 years of Convention memorabilia. The convention committee had collected multiple convention yearbooks that delegates and guests reviewed during their free time.

The first business session of the Convention was called to order that evening by President Karen Ferraro. As always the Convention started with prayer and the Invocation offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony. The Convention body then pledged allegiance to the flag and sang the National Anthem.

Opening remarks and greetings were given by President Karen Ferraro, Junior UOL President Natalie Hrytsay, Convention Committee Chairperson Tracey Sally, and the Spiritual Father of the Convention, Fr. John Charest. While many of the events were similar from previous Conventions, this year each event had special meaning because we had not joined together for several years. The first formal session of the day concluded with the approval of a formal Agenda, Minutes, Financial Records and Audit Reports.

That evening the entire convention body enjoyed a hospitality room with snacks and pizza. While the food was delicious, more important than any meals, was the time to greet each other. It was a joy to catch up with fellow UOL members and to enjoy each other's company. It was a time to catch up with old friends and rekindle UOL bonds.

The second day of this year's Convention began with a Divine Liturgy that with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony was served by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. It was the feast day of St. Volodymyr and His Eminence shared an inspiring reflection about St. Volodymyr's legacy.

Following Divine Liturgy everyone enjoyed a fantastic brunch. Following brunch the sessions resumed and our keynote speaker, Fr. John Chakos of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, spoke about his missionary work in Guatemala.



(Continued on Page 3)



COMING SOON!
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
76TH UOL CONVENTION! 2023!!

UOL BULLETIN - The official publication of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the United States of America. Circulated to all UOL Members.
Non-members subscription rate \$30.00 Canada \$40.00

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UOL Bulletin - Published six times annually - September, October, December/January, March, April /May and June.

The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be returned.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 11 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsuflier@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL

Matushka Laryssa Charest



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

I think I can speak for many when I say the 75th Annual Convention was a huge hit! The work of the Convention Planning Committee proved to be fruitful and enjoyed by all in attendance. Being a part of the planning team allowed me to see the added pressure of organizing the first in-person convention in two years. Even with that added pressure, a lot of love and hard work went in to the details, which in the end paid off. This convention was undoubtedly memorable!

Coming off of the convention, I feel energized both spiritually and mentally. There seemed to be a shared feeling of accomplishment from the business sessions. The discussions held by each group shed a new light on the work that we need to do and that we CAN do. And that allowed for us to connect on a greater level at the evening social events. Walking away from the convention, I can truly say it was something special.

Since then, the newly elected board is already preparing for the year ahead. We are excited to put all the suggestions made at the Convention and turn them into action items. I'm really looking forward to a full list of accomplishments.

The 75th Annual Convention took us back 'in the beginning,' to prepare us for a new beginning. With that, here's a list of the 2022-2023 Commission Chairs:

Christian Caregiving & Missions- Anna Anderson
Education- Oleh Bilynsky
Public Relations- Christine Mills
Vocations & Clergy Support- Joe Goodge
Youth- TBD
Ways & Means- Teresa Linck

On a personal note, I am truly honored to be working with a great executive board. I had the privilege of serving on the National Executive Board in the role of Corresponding Secretary for the past two years. I had the pleasure to serve with a great group of individuals who shared their talents for the glory of God and for the growth of the League. I want to thank the past President, Karen Ferraro, for her steadfast dedication and leadership for the past 3 years. I am comforted knowing I will have her guidance as she fulfills the role of Immediate Past President. With the help of the other newly elected officers and your prayers, I can confidently say it's going to be a great year. Please also, include me in your prayers. This new position will take some getting used to but I will serve it faithfully and prayerfully.

Finally, we will be keeping you up to date on all events and important information through our social media accounts and our website. Please stay tuned! There will be a lot of information coming out about next year's convention.

Until then...

I remain,
Yours in Christ,
Matushka Laryssa Charest

Praying our Way Together
Sponsored by UOL Education Commission

Looking for something to heighten your spiritual journey to prepare for the Nativity.

Planning a group prayer for Advent.

If you would like to journey with us, please email your name, phone number, parish name, and parish address to Oleh Bilynsky at nsuflier@aol.com and more information will be sent to you.

Please sign up by November 20, 2022



75th UOL Discussion Breakout Session Summary

During the Business Sessions, the 75th UOL Convention Delegates had several breakout sessions on the following topics: UOL Strategic Plan; Focus on Youth; and Ukrainian Refugees Support. The delegates stayed in the same groups for both sessions which allowed for deeper discussion and recommendations for the UOL NEB for the upcoming years. Representatives presented information to the convention body for discussion and a summary follows and will also be available on the UOL Website.

UOL Strategic Plan Session

Having a strategy is always a good idea, and part of that strategy is to determine the Ends, Ways, and Means of achieving the goal or the desired end. The desired **end or goal** is to Demonstrate Our (the UOL's) Value to the UOC of USA (parishes/parishioners).

We can do this by leveraging the UOL's unique capabilities and interconnections and building bridges with different parishes/people instead of everyone standing alone as islands.

We can connect everyone to the Church.

The UOL can show the value of connecting people and parishes. The concept addresses the entire archdiocese, not just UOL Parishes.

Recommendation: Show the value of the UOL as an organization that connects among different parishes of the UOC of USA to help solve their common problems or share ideas.

Examples of common problems can range from new issues that may arise like the War in Ukraine. The UOL could be a source or way to share information to everyone, what kinds of problems/issues are people seeing, how are they being resolved, a way to leverage information sharing.

Other common problems among parishes might be how to handle clergy compensation, taxation, health care, immigration issues, green cards. The UOL might/could assign issues/tasks under a commission for follow-up or a way to share information.

A third example, Sunday School/Vacation Bible School, issues/suggestions/ideas could be assigned under the UOL Education commission with discussions and shared across the UOC of USA.

In order to help the UOL grow and move forward, showing the value of the UOL as an organization to the entire UOC of USA to gain membership, momentum, fellowship, and break down barriers is a must. Moving the UOL to build bridges using various forms of Zoom type calls, meetings, conferences, in person meetings/conferences and publications. Suggesting projects and ideas seems to work well and should continue and be expanded along with the UOL becoming a point of contact for events and functions for parishes in order to share.

Focus on Youth

1. Christ Centered Parishes

Show respect by leading as examples that promote youth to be: UOL Members, attend conventions, retreats, and spiritual events.

This is the foundation of family and Church to promote networking and growth of our UOC of USA.

2. Let youth take charge of events. Not as helpers, but as leaders.

3. Acquire good and meaningful teaching literature, relevant to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, for church school students so they have a strong understanding of Orthodoxy.

Have regular teaching liturgies, maybe on a Saturday, so they understand every aspect of the Liturgy.

Have little kits available for the young children to occupy them during Liturgy. Fill them with liturgical items, if possible, to enhance liturgical understanding.

4. Teenagers

Teenagers need to be included in Sr. UOL Meetings and we need to understand what they need to feel included.

Some teenagers report that they feel they are being judged and it makes them uncomfortable.

We as adults need to work on changing our attitude.

Teenagers need a loving, accepting environment.

(Continued on page 3)

(Convention - continued from page 1)



This year the convention body had several committee groups that focused on essential issues within the Church. There were three topics that were focused on during break-out committees. One group focused on the strategic plan for the UOL, the second focused on youth and the final focused on work to support Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees. Reports from the committees are published within the UOL Bulletin.

Thursday evening was a wonderful event with UOL delegates and guests dressed to celebrate decades throughout the history of the UOL. Each table within the hall was dedicated to a specific decade and wow did our members go all out to dress for the occasion. We had a wonderful representation of poodle skirts for the 1950's, and bright prints and bell bottoms for the 1960's and 70s. The night was fun with dancing throughout the decades. The DJ played songs from each decade and the dance floor was packed the entire night.



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MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Natalie Swan



Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!

On behalf of the Jr. Executive Board and all of the youth participants of the 75th UOL Convention, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to the convention chairs, Tracy Sally and the Convention Committee, for the time and effort they dedicated to make this year's UOL Convention a success. I would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our spiritual father, Fr. John Charest, and Jr. UOL advisor, Mrs. Andrea Swan. We are grateful for your guidance and spiritual support, and we are blessed by your inspiration and love you bestow upon us. Thank you to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Eminence Archbishop Daniel for their continued support of the Jr. UOL, and for playing a vital role in the lives of the youth of our Church.

I also extend my thanks to the outgoing members of the Jr. National Board, Natalie Hrytsay and Rachel Harendza. Their hard work and dedication to the Jr. UOL will continue to inspire myself and future officers. I wish them good luck in the future and hope they continue to stay active within the Church and UOL.

Congratulations to the newly elected National Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League! It is truly an honor to be able to work with such a determined group of people. The National Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League for the 2022-2023 year consists of the following individuals:

- President: Natalie Swan - Philadelphia, PA
- Vice President: Mia Zetick - Philadelphia, PA
- Secretary: Olesya Korotinsky - Philadelphia, PA
- Financial Secretary: Thomas Sheptak - Pittsburgh, PA
- Treasurer: Stephen Sheptak - Pittsburgh, PA
- Advisor: Andrea Swan - Philadelphia, PA
- Spiritual Advisor: Father John Charest - Carnegie, PA

As a National Board, we are here to help you and your chapter! This year, our main mission is rebooting chapters. I encourage you and all your youth to take an active part in your parish life. As we begin this new year for the UOL, I pray that we will be blessed with just as many new ideas and productive meetings.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League throughout this year, please don't hesitate to contact me, Natalie Swan, at nds122304@gmail.com, or by phone at 610-772-5355.

Yours in Christ,
Natalie Swan

(Convention Break Out Sessions - Continued from page 2)

5. Young Adults

When our young people go off to college or for work, the UOL needs to research the area for an Orthodox church and provide the parish & parish priest the information for contact to be made with the young adults.

College students need someone to talk to, maybe need rides, etc.

Parish priest should let their greeters know so they can be welcomed upon arrival.

Have UOL Members research and plan Orthodoxy on Tap.

How to organize one, contact information, help for the priest.

Young married couples & those with children. What are their needs?
Babysitting – give adults chat time, maybe provide a meal.

Discuss spiritual needs.

Ukrainian Refugees & what we can offer spiritually; communicate with our parishes in Europe

Coming in the next issue of the UOL Bulletin! Stay tuned!

Meet the National Executive Board of the Senior UOL For the 2022-2023 Term

For the next few UOL Bulletin issues we will feature biographies from our National Executive Board Members. This issue learn more about our President, Immediate Past President and Spiritual Advisor.

President - Matushka Laryssa Charest

I am Matushka Laryssa Charest. I live in Carnegie, PA where my husband serves the parish of St. Peter and St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (this year's Convention host, if you missed it). We have a beautiful son, Sebastian. He'll be 7 11/12ths by the time you read this. He is the light of my life. We moved to the Pittsburgh area almost 4 years ago and we love it. In the parish, I direct the choir, actively participate in the life of the parish, and am the Chairwoman of the War Relief Committee. I am grateful to be a part of an active and all-around wonderful community.



Growing up, my parish didn't have a UOL chapter. In my late teens, I went to All Saints Camp and made so many wonderful friends that I had to go to Convention just to spend more time with them. Those two opportunities allowed me time to foster some beautiful relationships. Now that I have a child and want the same for him, I became more involved with the League on a national level. I have previously served as Recording Secretary on the National Executive Board and for the past two years I filled the role of Corresponding Secretary. Now, I switch hats to President. Your prayers are needed!

Here are some interesting facts about me: I have two dogs, Lucky and Alpie. Lucky is unbelievably loyal and Alpie...well, Alpie's something else. We also have two cats: Whiskers and Xena. Whiskers was supposed to be a turtle for Sebastian but then the adorable cuteness of a 6-week-old kitten erased all rationale and we got him instead. Normally, impulse purchasing an animal is not a good idea but we lucked out. Our other cat, Xena is our little scaredy cat but she's quite sweet too. Lastly, we have fish too. I really enjoy gardening and a good book. In my adult life, I found myself drawn to advocating for orphans. My husband and I have hosted a number of orphans in the past and we have always been open to the idea of adoption. I am also an advocate for rescue dogs. I am a registered foster mom with Cross Your Paws Rescue and the National Great Pyrenees Rescue. Most importantly, I love experiencing all of these things with my Sebastian. He's the greatest kid and I'm blessed to be his mom.

Immediate Past President Karen Ferraro



Karen is a life-long member of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Philadelphia. She is of 100% Ukrainian descent (maiden name Melnyk) and is the 2nd generation of her family born in the United States. She first joined the UOL as a teen and attended Teen Conference at Camp Kon-owee. Karen served as president of the National UOL from July 2019 through July 2022. She also served as First Vice President and Auditor at the National UOL level, and continues to serve as Recording Secretary of her home UOL chapter. At St. Vladimir's, she serves on the

Parish Board, is webmaster for the parish website, and chairs the Hope Fund (Charitable Giving) Committee. Karen is also a founding member of the Guardians of the Metropolia, a new organization of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

She began singing in the choir at St. Vladimir's as a pre-teen, following in the footsteps of two generations of her family. Having attained some choral directing experience as a student director in high school, Karen began directing the choir at St. Vladimir's part-time in 1984 and has served as the primary choir director since the late 1990s. Karen also serves as cantor for weekday services. Outside of church, Karen is the director of the Moorestown Music Makers chorus, comprised of current and former employees of Lockheed Martin, and lends her soprano voice to the Cinnaminson Community Chorus, where she has served as Assistant Director for many years. She is also a member of the Philadelphia Pan-Orthodox Choir.

In late 2019, Karen retired from Lockheed Martin in Moorestown, NJ where she was a Software Engineering Manager, responsible for business applications across multiple functional areas for Lockheed Martin's Rotary and Mission Systems.

Karen lives in Cinnaminson, NJ with her husband of 42 years, Alan. Karen and Al can often be found enjoying the Pocono Mountains or their favorite vacation spot, Walt Disney World. They are proud parents of son Mark and daughter-in-law Suzy, of Albuquerque, NM.

Very Rev. Protopresbyter Stephen Hallick-Holutiak Senior UOL Recognition Award Presented to Ruslana Korotinsky Submitted by Karen Ferraro

The Very Reverend Protopresbyter Stephen Hallick-Holutiak Senior Recognition award is given to a UOL member who demonstrates outstanding contributions to the League. At our 75th UOL Convention in Carnegie, PA, the Stephen Hallick-Holutiak / Senior Recognition Award was presented to **Ruslana Korotinsky** from St. Vladimir's Philadelphia Chapter.

Ruslana has been the driving force in providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine and organizing items to give to refugee families coming to Philadelphia. St. Vladimir's Hope Fund is their charitable giving committee with three focus areas: Local community in Philadelphia, Philadelphia Ukrainian Community Outreach, and Outreach to Ukraine.

Ruslana is the chair of the Philadelphia Ukrainian Community Outreach, but once the team decided to focus first on Outreach to Ukraine, she became co-chair of that focus area. One project worked on prior to the war involved sending funds to help the widow of a soldier fix up her dilapidated apartment, where she lived with her 7-year-old daughter.

Once war broke out, Ruslana stressed help must be swift and impactful. She has pushed hard on a daily basis to get medical supplies donated and shipped to where they are needed near the front lines in Ukraine. She and her family spent countless hours sorting and packing over 220 boxes of materials to be shipped. These boxes included medicine, baby food, socks, and other donated items. She organized a project to have people donate water purifying pills that was very successful. She had donations dropped off at her door daily and made several trips to church each week to sort and pack items. Even an emergency appendectomy didn't slow down her efforts!

Congratulations to Ruslana on receiving this well-deserved recognition! Many years!



Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Mykola Zomchak

Fr. Mykola Zomchak was born on May 22, 1995, in the little village of Stankova, Ivano-Frankivsk region, Ukraine. There he was brought up and went to school. In his home church, the Holy Archangel Michael, he became an altar server. After graduating from high school he entered Kalush Politech College where he studied Finance, later he continued to study Finance at the Institute of Management in Ivano Frankivsk where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Finance in the year of 2015. The same year he enrolled in St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Bound Brook, NJ. In the year of 2016, on the feast of St. Greatmartyr Panteleimon, he was tonsured a Subdeacon by Archbishop Daniel at St. Panteleimon Parish in Brooklyn NY. In December of 2019 Sbd. Mykola graduated from St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary and received a Diploma with the Degree "Master of Divinity."



Fr. Mykola reading the UOL Bulletin with his daughter Sophia

In the year of 2020, he married his wife Maria and in the year of 2021 on March 6 Sbd. Mykola was ordained a deacon by His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. On July 17 2021 Dn. Mykola was ordained a priest at the St. Andrew Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, NJ. Fr. Mykola worked at the Consistory of the UOC of USA until, on March 27, 2022, he was assigned to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Youngstown, OH, where he currently is the Pastor.

At the 75th UOL Convention Fr. Mykola was assigned by Metropolitan Antony as Spiritual Advisor of the Senior League. Prior to the 75th UOL Convention Fr. Mykola attended the UOL Conventions still as a seminarian. All those years he received the scholarship from the UOL to continue his studies. It was at the time when he was a seminarian that the Saint Sophia Seminary established their UOL Chapter where he served different positions as an officer. Fr. Mykola has participated in various mission trips. He has also served as a Spiritual Father of the Camping Program at the All Saints Camp.

Fr Mykola loves spending time in nature. He loves sports as well as singing. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, Fr. Zomchak with his wife Matushka Maria are raising their daughter Sophia.

(Convention - continued from page 3)

The next morning sessions resumed with review of financial reports, annual reports from board members as well as a presentation from each of the break out committees. President Ferraro presented a check for "Souper Bowl Sunday" to Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, President of St. Andrew's Society. This year the UOL raised \$8,575 for Souper Bowl Sunday. Accepting the donation, Protodeacon Ihor spoke of the common ministry of both organizations and the great part the UOL has played in helping St. Andrew's Society to raise and distribute about \$1,300,000 for charitable projects in the past 25 years of St. Andrew's Society's ministry.

Unfortunately Josh Oryhon was not able to join the Convention in person, however, with the help of technology he was able to greet the Convention participants and give them a tour of the new water treatment system. He also encouraged all members to support fundraising for All Saints Camp and specifically to donate to cover the expenses related to the installation of the new well and water system.

On Friday afternoon Convention delegates and guests had the opportunity to participate in a workshop, take some time to relax or to tour areas within Pittsburgh. The workshop was led by Tracy Sally, master pysanka writer. Tracy instructed members in making etched pysanky. The technique utilizes brown eggs and a method to etch the coloring off of the egg. Tracy outlined each step and taught the group how to etch the egg. Each member went home with their own supplies and egg.

Friday evening, traditionally cultural night at the UOL Convention, was a Ukrainian Christmas in July, chaired by Matushka Laryssa Charest. UOL members gathered at Cefalo's Banquet and Event Center. The local hall was



decorated with Christmas trees and zhvyzdas (stars carried by carolers). The night started with time to relax and chat and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. The entire group moved over to the next room for dinner, a delicious buffet. Following



dinner the group enjoyed a fun game of pirate Pollyanna, where members can pirate a gift from another at the table. It was a fun way to joke and laugh.

The group returned to the other room and enjoyed a moving adaptation of the Ukrainian Spider story that was created by Natalie Kapeluck Nixon and performed by the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Carnegie, PA. Natalie narrated the story about how spiders had provided a gift to a poor family. As an additional surprise to the members, each member was given a spider Christmas ornament that was handmade by Christine Charest. The day ended with evening prayers.



This year Convention delegates were treated to a full breakfast provided at the hotel each morning. Saturday morning began with the Akathist Service. Saturday sessions started with review of the UOL Budget for the coming year. Junior Committees also presented their reports to the Convention body.

The Senior National UOL Board presented the UOL Essay Contest Awards. Teresa Linck, Essay Contest Chairperson, reported that this year there were 109 entries from 9 parishes for the UOL Essay Contest. A full list of all of the winners will be published in the next issue of the UOL Bulletin.

A highlight of the Convention is always Chapter Challenge and this year our Chapter Challenge was quite exciting. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony read the questions and the competition was close. The Chapter Challenge was a nail-biter with the Junior UOL National Executive Board losing.

Elections for both Senior and Junior UOL Boards occurred on Saturday.

Senior National Executive Board UOL Officers:

President – Matushka Laryssa Charest of Sts. Peter and Paul, Carnegie, PA;
 1st Vice President – Anna Anderson of Sts. Peter and Paul, Youngstown, OH;
 2nd Vice President – Natalie Bilynsky of St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA;
 Corresponding Secretary – Brittany Brettell of Sts. Peter and Paul, Carnegie, PA;
 Recording Secretary – Teresa Linck of St. Mary, New Britain, CT;
 Financial Secretary – Joseph Goodge of Sts. Peter and Paul, Youngstown, OH;
 Treasurer – Oleh Bilynsky of St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA;
 Auditor – Tracey Sally of Sts. Peter and Paul, Carnegie, PA;
 Immediate Past President – Karen Ferraro of St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA;

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony announced that Fr. Mykola Zomchak of Youngstown, OH will serve as Spiritual Advisor to the Senior UOL and Fr. John Charest of Carnegie, PA will serve as Spiritual Advisor to the Junior UOL.

Junior UOL:

President: Natalie Swan - St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA
 Vice President: Mia Zetick - St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA
 Secretary: Olesya Korotinsky - St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA
 Financial Secretary: Thomas Sheptak - St. Vladimir, Pittsburgh, PA
 Treasurer: Stephen Sheptak - St. Vladimir, Pittsburgh, PA

During the final session of the UOL Convention, the St. Vladimir UOL Chapter in Philadelphia put in a bid to host the 77th UOL Convention in 2024. The Convention body unanimously accepted the bid for the Convention. President Karen Ferraro announced that there is no host for the UOL Convention in 2023 and the National Executive Board will serve as the host and plans to work with St. Michael's Parish in Scranton, PA to host the Convention in this area. There was discussion related to the challenges for chapters to host UOL Conventions. The Convention body decided to have a National Executive Board position or Convention liaison to assist with convention planning and working to plan for upcoming Conventions.

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(Convention - Continued from page 5)



President Karen Ferraro adjourned the 75th UOL Convention and Juniors and Seniors ended the convention with a closing prayer and singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem. Following the close of sessions, the group gathered for the annual picture.



In the afternoon UOL members had the opportunity to participate in a workshop, entitled "Icons and Sacred Space," with Michael Kapeluck, iconographer. He provided a tour of Sts. Peter and Paul. Following the inspiring workshop, UOL members celebrated Vespers in the parish.



Later Saturday evening all Seniors and Juniors gathered for the formal banquet in honor of the 75th Annual UOL Convention. Natalie Kapeluck Nixon served as the host and spoke eloquently about how the UOL had inspired her.

Awards were presented including: Chapter of the Year to Sharon, PA and Fr. Hallick-Holutiak to Ruslana Korotinsky (See articles about each recipient in this issue). Joe Godge presented Seminarians of the Church with scholarships from the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund.

Junior UOL President Natalie Hrytsay presented Junior UOL awards including the Fr. Bukata Award to Olesya Korotinsky and the Junior UOL Chapter of the Year to St. Vladimir Philadelphia, PA. Anna Anderson presented the LSSK scholarship to Natalie Hrytsay and Rebekah Kate Bailly. Details about Junior UOL winners and Scholarship recipients will be in the October issue of the UOL Bulletin.

Following the banquet everyone enjoyed a fantastic band, Zirka, and there was a full night of dancing. It was a wonderful evening that was enjoyed by all. One highlight of the evening, was that our young clergy and seminarians serenaded the group with fabulous Ukrainian folk songs. The songs were so amazing it was as if we had a concert performance from the group.

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**Senior Chapter Achievement Award 2022
St. John the Baptist, Sharon, PA
Submitted by Joe Godge**

Our 2022 UOL Chapter of the Year was presented to St. John the Baptist, Sharon, PA at the 75th Annual Convention. Although a small parish, they have been very active. According to their spiritual advisor, the chapter has been dedicated and relentless in keeping in contact with their parishioners during very tenacious, trying times. They actively participate in all aspects of parish life and activity. They continue to strive in their faith and Ukrainian cultural expression. They continue to encourage others, uplifting them in spirit by being welcoming and developing creative solutions to modern day challenges.



During the course of the year, they have made donations/gifts to their priest, given aid for Ukraine, donated to the MJSF and LSSK scholarship funds, helped send two children to camp, and participated in nativity caroling. They have sponsored activities such as Souper Bowl Sunday, Chinese Auction at the Egg Show, planned the program and provided the food for the church's annual Veteran's Day Luncheon, and sent Holiday and Get-Well cards to shut-ins. They also prepared Pascha baskets for the shut-ins and Pascha treats for the kids, gave Mother's Day gifts, sponsored a Father's Day Lunch and provided gifts, and held a Community Day Event at the church. Finally, they had a Blessing Box built and installed at the church to provide non-perishable goods to those in need in the community.

Members have worked hard through difficult times and have come up with ways that they could serve those around them in new and creative ways. Congratulations to St. John the Baptist for being up for the challenges faced during the Corona Virus pandemic. It is very well deserved!



Metropolitan John Scholarship Awards Submitted by Joe Goodge

The Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund (MJSF), established and first awarded by the Ukrainian Orthodox League in 1966, provides scholarships to seminarians preparing to enter the Holy Priesthood in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. In addition, they also provide grants to the Clergy of our Church. All scholarship recipients are approved by the Hierarchs. This year 7 men have met the requirements to receive MJSF scholarships and they are as follows:

- Reverend Andrii Drapak
- Subdeacon Pavlo Vysotskyi
- Reader Andrii Vatrych
- Reader Maksym Zhuravchyk
- Seminarian Andrii Akulenko
- Seminarian Roman Marchyshak
- Seminarian Mykola Stefanyk

Through the generous donations of our membership, we were able to present a check to St. Sophia Seminary in the amount of \$6,684.74 to help assist the recipients with the cost of their education. MJSF scholarships are extremely valuable in supporting seminarians and clergy so they can pursue their religious education. We hope you will consider donating to this worthy cause.

Congratulations to all the recipients. We wish you all the best and look forward to working with you as priests in the near future.



(Convention - continued from page 6)

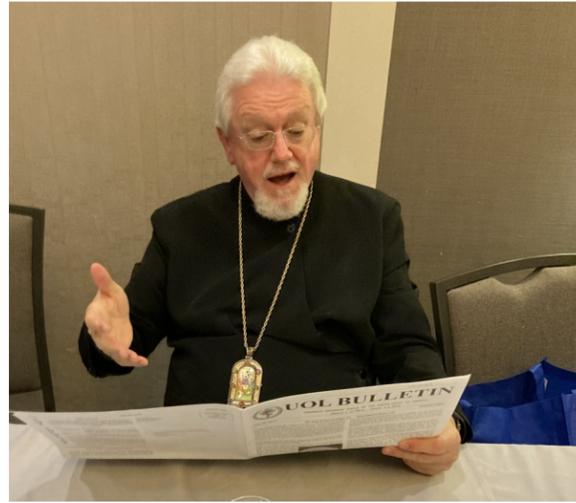
The 75th Annual UOL Convention came to a formal conclusion on Sunday, July 31, 2022, as the delegates gathered at Sts. Peter and Paul in Carnegie for Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony. The parish President along with the outgoing Senior UOL President Karen Ferraro and outgoing Junior UOL President Natalie Hrytsay greeted our Hierarch. It is always a joy to celebrate Divine Liturgy with our UOL members. The Carnegie choir, joined with guests from multiple parishes, led by Matushka Laryssa Charest, sang heavenly.

At the conclusion of the service, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony called upon the newly elected executive boards of the Senior and Junior UOL for a formal induction into their service in the life of the organization and the Church. Holding candles in their hands, the officers of the organization made a solemn promise to work for the Glory of God and the fulfillment of the mission of the organization: "Dedicated to our Church; Devoted to its Youth!"

Following Divine Liturgy, everyone was invited to participate in a wonderful brunch at the parish hall. The Parish Chapter and Parish are to be commended for an absolutely wonderful and memorable Convention. Special thanks to Convention Chairperson Tracy Sally and Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Charest and all of the committee for all of their hard work. Their labor of love in planning this convention truly serves as an inspiration.



UOL Bulletin Pictures

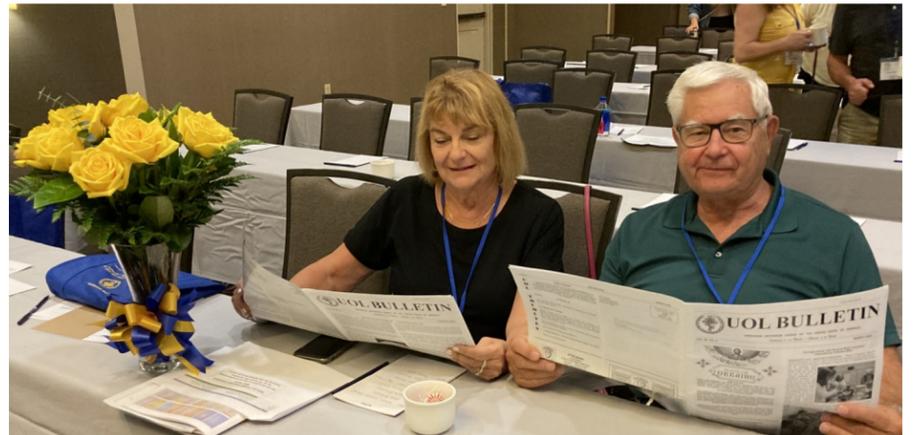


Join in the fun!

Take a picture reading your UOL Bulletin!

Submit pictures by sending to nsufler@aol.com

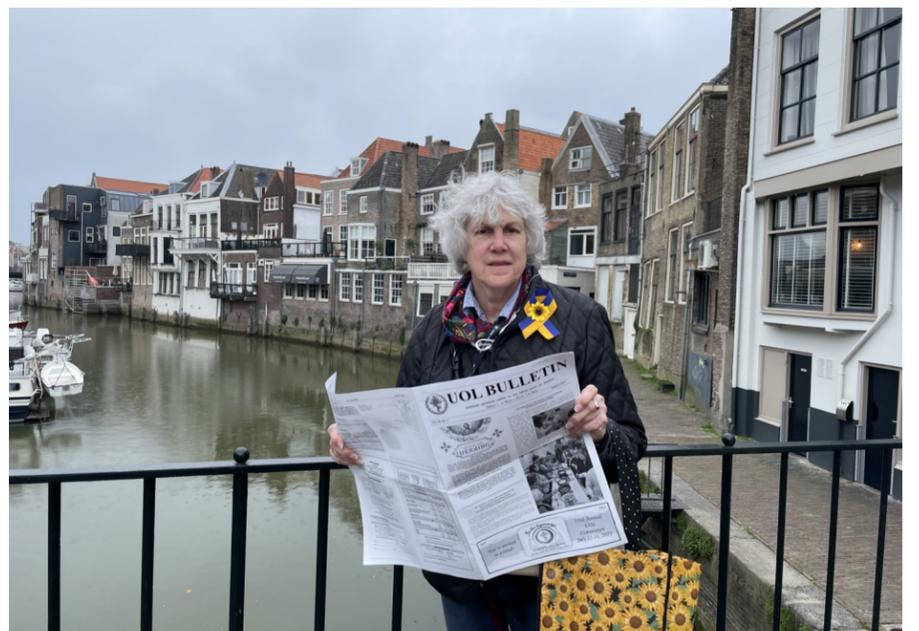
Metropolitan Antony quite excited as he reads the UOL Bulletin at the 75th UOL Convention.



Mike and Martha Misko enjoy the UOL Bulletin at the 75th UOL Convention as they celebrate their 45th Wedding Anniversary! Mnohaya Lita Mike and Martha!



Irene Shewchuk enjoys the UOL Bulletin while travelling in Holland.



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UOL Tribute

A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Bulletin
c/o Natalie Bilynsky
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| Donor | In Honor of |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Teresa and Michael Linck | Congratulations to Janeene Linck and Dean Catalano who were joined in Holy Matrimony June 26, 2022. May God grant them Many Happy years! Mnohaya Lita! |
| Pani Matka Beth Harendza | In memory of Eugene P. Klym. Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat! |
| Anonymous | In honor of Carol Novacel for a successful Camping season at the All Saints Camp Kitchen. |
| Daria and Michael J. Komichak | In memory of Dr. Steve Sivulich, Mrs. Eugenia Arson and Steve Sawchuk, founders and ardent supporters of the LSSK Scholarship Fund. Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat! |
| Chris Mills | To honor and thank the UOL National Executive Board and the 75th Annual UOL Convention Committee for all their hard work and efforts this past year! |

To submit your Tribute:

Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of \$20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:
Natalie Bilynsky
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Send your tribute today!

Thank you to everyone who donated to support the LSSK and MJSF Scholarships!

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