



# UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth*

VOL. 62 NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2015



## 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention UOC of USA Office of Public Relations – Press Release

Members of the Senior UOL Chapter of the Dormition (Assumption) of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Northampton, PA have worked tirelessly over the last two years preparing for this memorable week of faith, fellowship and most of all, fun. That preparation was evident as the events of the Convention were thoughtfully conceived and flawlessly executed. Over 100 delegates were welcomed to the UOL Convention from various chapters from across the country.

The Convention started on Thursday evening with the formal opening proceedings, welcoming the delegates of the convention to Lehigh Valley. Karen Ferraro, Senior UOL First Vice President, called the Convention to order. Greetings were provided by Kateryna Kocelko, Junior UOL President, along with the Convention spiritual father, Very Rev. Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha and co-chairs of this year's Convention Linda Winters and Martha Misko. Their words of hope provided a vision towards the future that touches the lives of the generations of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians across the USA.



Following the formal opening remarks, the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing of the National Anthem, the Junior Convention body adjourned to their own conference room to begin their deliberations.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, His Grace Bishop Daniel, the President of the Consistory of the UOC of the USA, opened the business session with the archpastoral address. His Grace reminded the delegates of the need for strong spiritually oriented chapters and parishes because of the growing number of forces undermining the stability of family

life, and with the increasing mobility of our society with its concomitant fruits of isolation, alienation and depersonalization, there is less structure within

our nation for people to come together and to support each other through mutual interdependence. Yet the basis of our Christian faith, and indeed of healthy human living, depends upon this mutual interdependence, upon our willingness to be aware of and concerned about one another. The UOL chapters are the place where this interdependence can and should happen, the place where support systems for Christian formation and Christian living must constantly be developed and fashioned in light of changing needs and changing circumstances.

The second day of the Convention, the feast day of Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Princess Olha, began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Primate of the UOC of the USA, presided over the liturgical service, which was concelebrated by Very Rev. Bazyl Zawierucha, pastor of Assumption of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Northampton, PA; the spiritual advisor of the Senior UOL, Very Rev. Fr. John Haluszchak; and the spiritual father of the Junior UOL, Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sendeha. Linda Winters and chanters of Holy Dormition parish,



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## The 69<sup>th</sup> Annual U.O.L Convention

Hosted By:

Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Coatesville, PA

July 27–31, 2016

*"Be quick to hear, slow to speak & slow to anger"*

James 1:19

Convention Information: [holyghostuoc.org/2016](http://holyghostuoc.org/2016)



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**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 12 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsufler@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.

**Very Reverend Protopresbyter Stephen Hallick–Holutiak  
Senior UOL Recognition Award –  
Michael Woloschak, Youngstown, OH  
Submitted by Michael Komichak**

This year's Very Reverend Protopresbyter Stephen Hallick–Holutiak Senior UOL Recognition Award was presented at the 68th Annual UOL Convention Grand Banquet to Michael Woloschak, of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Youngstown, OH.

In 1957, the Orthodox of the Year Award Program was created by St. Vladimir's Senior Chapter of Cleveland to recognize a lay member of the League for their accomplishments in furthering the aims and goals of the League. In 1991, the name was changed to the Senior Recognition Award. In 1995, the award was given the name of Father Stephen Hallick-Holutiak to honor the lifelong role of Father Hallick-Holutiak in the life of the League. This Award is presented to a UOL member in good standing during the year of consideration. However, current NEB members are not eligible.

By this award, Michael Woloschak is recognized for long-standing and tireless service to the Ukrainian Orthodox League and to the Church. He has been a shining example to others, having held numerous parish offices and raising a strong, Orthodox Christian family. Following his Army service in WWII, Michael was a member of a dance group that performed 68 years ago at the first UOL Convention in New York City. Even at an advanced age, Michael can always be counted on to attend every service, rain or shine. He is still actively involved in parish projects, including helping set up for parish bingo twice a week.

Michael Woloschak is a long time member of the church choir and of the UOL, always supporting any Junior activity either financially or by donating prized Ukrainian artifacts for auction. He is a member and prior officer of the Eastern Orthodox Men's Society. In her recommendation, Sts. Peter & Paul UOL Senior Chapter Vice President Dinah Fedyna noted: "He serves as mentor for our younger church leaders and is a living history of our parish...As a pleasant and humble servant, he does these things without fanfare, but simply with a kind and generous spirit." His pastor Fr. John Harvey remarked: "I am pleased to have Michael Woloschak as a parishioner, friend and co-worker and I can support his nomination without any reservations."

Congratulations Michael Woloschak!!

(Convention - continued from page 1)

along with the delegates of the Convention, directed the prayerful chanting. In his remarks Metropolitan Antony reflected on the life of the enlightener of the Kyivan Rus, who by her personal example turned to Christ and was able to change her path of life, serving and leading others to the salvific path of Christ.

Following the Divine Liturgy, the first business session of the day began with the Archpastoral address of the First Hierarchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA – His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, who stated

*"The theme for this convention – "Put off the old, put on the new man; Be children of God; Walk in Christ the Light" (Eph. 4: 17-5, 10) – is one of the most powerful and meaningful themes I can remember for a UOL convention. The whole process suggested in the theme begins in the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Chrismation, where the "old" is put off as the one baptized is immersed in the Baptismal waters and arise from the waters reborn into the "new" and clothes him or herself in Jesus Christ our Lord, becoming a child of God and beginning the life-long walk in the Light of Christ – as the Priest leads him or her on their first steps about the baptismal font and the table upon which the Holy Gospel rests. The Godparents carry candles in this procession representing the Light of Christ. The walk in faithfulness to the Holy Gospel is in a circle – meaning eternity – symbolizing that our walk will*

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**MESSAGE FROM THE  
SENIOR UOL PRESIDENT**

**Michael J. Komichak**

*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will  
be established.*



Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Khrystu!

I am once again honored and privileged to greet you as President of the National Executive Board of the Ukrainian Orthodox League, having been re-elected by the delegates to the 68th Annual UOL Convention. I thank the delegates for putting their faith and trust in me for a third consecutive term and look forward to a productive year for the League. On behalf of the UOL NEB, I thank our Convention hosts at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Parish in Northampton, PA, and in particular the Convention co-chairs Martha Misko and Linda Winters. Through their meticulous planning and attention to detail, their concept of a "shortened convention" was very successfully implemented. I thank the Senior and Junior Spiritual Advisors Fr. John Haluszczak and Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, and especially thank our Hierarchs Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel, whose active participation and guidance were truly appreciated by all.

I congratulate all of the elected officers of the Senior and Junior Boards and look forward to working with each of them. I welcome three new officers to the Senior NEB—Jack Roditski from Maplewood, NJ as Treasurer; Daria Pishko Komichak from Maplewood, NJ as Corresponding Secretary; and Teresa Linck from Carteret, NJ as Auditor—and sincerely thank outgoing officers Lauren Bentley, Tabitha Bentley, and Linda Winters for their exemplary service on the Senior Board.

With the election of new officers comes the appointment of new Chapter Liaisons for the upcoming year. Chapter Liaisons keep the lines of communication open between the local Chapters and the NEB throughout the year. The designated Chapter Liaisons this year are as follows:

Karen Ferraro	Coatesville, Philadelphia, Youngstown
Daria Pishko Komichak	Carnegie, Sharon
Teresa Linck	Carteret
Janice Meschisen	Woonsocket
Jack Roditski	Allentown, Northampton, Wilmington
PM Olena Sendeha	Bensenville, Palos Park, Parma
Alexander Shevchuk	Lyndora, Maplewood, South Bound Brook

Even though this year's Convention was one day shorter than those of the recent past, the delegates accomplished much and returned home with a renewed sense of purpose. You can read the detailed recommendations of the various Convention Committees by selecting "Convention News and Updates" online at [www.uol.orthodoxws.com](http://www.uol.orthodoxws.com).

In contrast with past Conventions, this year's Committees were organized to focus on several upcoming major tasks and initiatives. In November of this year, a memorial to the victims of the 1932-33 Holodomor Famine Genocide in Ukraine will be dedicated in Washington, DC. One Convention Committee discussed the UOL's role in this upcoming major event and recommended the appointment of national and deanery-wide UOL coordinators to help organize and facilitate attendance and participation across all parishes of the UOC of USA.

Two other Convention Committees discussed the UOL's active participation in the upcoming UOC of USA Centennial Celebration in 2018 in South Bound Brook, NJ. One Committee endorsed the idea of holding the 71st Annual UOL Convention during the Centennial Celebration in South Bound Brook. The other Committee offered creative suggestions on how the UOL might actively participate in the Celebration, such as by sponsoring historical programs and by promoting vocations—with an emphasis on women's vocations—during the event.

Two Committees examined issues impacting Membership Involvement and Development. Recommendations included an increased emphasis on meeting the needs of the UOL's Members at Large and the exploration of Distance Learning technologies to reach out to existing and potential members (both Senior and Junior) nationwide.

Another Committee examined the challenges facing the Junior UOL and the Youth Commission, including their organizational structure, recruitment, and activities. The Committee recommended a close partnership between the UOL and the Consistory Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and endorsed the establishment of a new Young Adults Council to coordinate efforts among the various ministries of the UOC of USA. As you can see, this year's Convention Committees generated many fresh ideas to advance the UOL towards accomplishing the goals of the "2020 Vision" established at the 2010 Convention. We are all eager to begin work on the Committee recommendations, and are excited about what the future holds for the UOL and the UOC of USA.

Yours in Christ,  
Michael J. Komichak

## Holy Ghost is Happy to Welcome You to Convention 2016 Submitted by Lauren Bentley

*“Let every person be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.”  
James 1:19*

Holy Ghost UOC of Coatesville extends an enthusiastic welcome to all Ukrainian Orthodox League members as well as their families to become aware of the plans which have been made and are currently being made for the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention scheduled for July, 2016. The convention will be held at the Host Resort in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



Guided by the spiritual advice given in James 1:19 (“Let every person be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger”), it is Coatesville’s desire to make the convention fertile ground to arrive at sound decisions leading to devotion to our Church and dedication to our youth.

Our venue lends itself ideally to a family vacation environment. Please visit our website ([Holyghostuoc.org/2016](http://Holyghostuoc.org/2016)) to learn more about our plans. Monthly, more will be added to let you know of our ongoing plans for a great convention.

## MJSF Scholarships Submitted by Pani Matka Linda Oryhon

This year at the UOL Annual Convention in Northampton, Pennsylvania, the Metropolitan John Scholarships were presented to students of Saint Sophia Seminary. A total of \$15,000 was awarded to the full and part-time students. This year MJSF was graciously given \$30,000 from the Pokrova parish in Philadelphia on the occasion of their uniting with St. Vladimir cathedral in Philadelphia. The UOL extends their sincerest thanks for this donation.

This September, Saint Sophia Seminary in South Bound Brook, New Jersey will celebrate its fortieth year of educating students and preparing them to serve our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church. This year the following full-time resident seminary students receiving scholarships in the Propoedeutic Year program, 2014-2015 are Subdeacon Ivan Chopko, and Subdeacon Volodymyr Yavorskyi. In the ESL Programme, students who arrived in the Seminary in January 2015 are Yuriy Ivanovych Bobko, Tadei Ihorovych Surak, Taras Kaluzhnyy and Ihor Protsak. The ESL programme includes instruction in the English language as well as developing an understanding of American life and culture.

In the Priestly Studies Programme: Short term Residence Component, receiving awards are Deacon John Charest, Deacon Paul Cherkas and Subdeacon Aleksei Dobyuk. This programme is designed for candidates to Holy Orders and others interested in advanced theological training who cannot commit to full-time residency at the Seminary. This programme is obligatory for all candidates for ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood in the Orthodox Church of the United States, as directed by the Hierarchs.

We thank all of our benefactors who have made it possible to give scholarships to these worthy young men. We continue to pray for the Seminary students’ success in their academic pursuits as well as their Priestly Formation to serve our Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States in the future.



## NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Kateryna Kocelko



Glory to Jesus Christ!

My name is Kateryna Kocelko and I am very blessed to have been reelected as the 2015-2016 President of the Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League. I would first like to thank the entire chapter of Northampton that put so much time and effort into making the convention as successful as it was. With all the love and time that was put into the planning of the week, I don’t know how it couldn’t have been a success. The Convention chairs, Martha Misko and Linda Winters, along with the entire Convention committee, did a fabulous job. It was a very successful and spiritually enriching week.

I would like to congratulate all of our graduates on all of their achievements and I hope to see all of you back next year at Convention as members of the Senior UOL. I would also like to once again thank all of the members of the National Executive Board last year, for all their time and dedication and it was truly a pleasure to work with all of you, especially our two advisors Tabitha Bentley and Rev. Father Vasyl Sendeha.

Now, it is with great honor that I introduce to you the newly elected National Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League for the 2015-2016 year.

President: Kateryna Kocelko- South Side, PA  
Vice President: Erica Holowko- Maplewood, NJ  
Secretary: Sophia Dobronos- Parma, OH  
Financial Secretary: Orest Mahlay- Parma, OH  
Treasurer: Kira Kuzmenchuk – Coatesville, PA

In order for this to be a successful year, the board has to do their part, but the individual chapters also have to be active and keep up. Communication is very important, not only between each other in your individual chapters, but also between the chapters and the national board. We cannot be successful without your cooperation. Please don’t hesitate to contact your liaison or any board member with questions or concerns throughout the year. Also please make sure you turn in your chapter dues and roster by September 30<sup>th</sup> so we can start this year off right. I pray that God gives all of us the strength to do His work this year and continue the work of the League.

Yours in Christ,  
Kateryna Kocelko

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*be life-long. We must conform our lives to Christ as the days, months and years go by, relying on the Grace we received through these Sacraments and that, which we will receive through all the Sacraments in the future – in particular the Holy Eucharist – to keep us on the straight and narrow path all the way to salvation in the Kingdom of God. All too often we fail to count on that Grace – on the power we have within to work miracles in our own lives and in the lives of others around us.*

*In order for that Grace to work in us leading us on the path of Theosis – the process of becoming more holy and Christ-like within so that we are able to image or reflect Christ without. St. Peter in his second epistles calls us to become ‘partakers of Divine Nature’ – by becoming part of the energy of God, rather than His Essence. We can never know the Essence of God, for that would make us Gods, as well, which is impossible. Becoming part of God’s energy, His love, power, life and glory, for example, is our goal. It is a constant process of self-examination so that we come to know ourselves – all our strengths, our weaknesses, our faults, our egocentrisms – for if we know not ourselves, we will never comprehend who we are in relation to Christ our Lord. When we know ourselves, St. Peter continues, ‘we will be neither barren nor unfruitful in knowledge of Christ.’”*

Immediately following the Senior UOL address, Metropolitan Antony addressed the Junior sessions of the 54<sup>th</sup> National Junior UOL Convention. The convention body again broke out into working committees to continue the effort begun the previous evening. Following the committee meetings, their reports were prepared for consideration by the entire convention body.

Before the conclusion of the business day, Senior UOL President Michael Komichak presented Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, President of St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society, with a check to benefit St. Andrew’s Society (in the amount of \$5,450). These funds were raised by the “Souper Bowl!” Sunday initiative and Thanksgiving Tithing program in order to benefit the ministry of the organization that provides basic care for the needy in Ukraine. Having

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**Orthodox Christian Witness Corner**  
Submitted by Nina James



Glory to Jesus Christ!

This year at the 68th annual National UOL Convention, hosted by Assumption of the Virgin Mary, in Northampton, Pa., a new concept was birthed and blessed. As with any birth, this is a new addition in which to be joyful and grateful for.

Every day we are inspired, enlightened or moved by God's presence. Sometimes it's "Earthshattering," but most of the time it's just very subtle. I call these "Ah ha..! moments." It may be things like getting reunited by old lost friends at unsuspected times or circumstances. Opportunities, which are totally undeserving to the receiver, are another example. Have you ever encountered a person who at one time in their lives was perceived one way, and years later he or she was transformed in some huge way? Have you ever wished for something that you wanted and never received, only to receive something better... days, months or years later? Are you still receiving God's Grace, taking it for granted and wondering, why is it when you give of yourself to others they don't appreciate it? The list goes on and on.

The entire Bible is made up God inspired testimonies for all mankind to read and absorb. Every circumstance and situation, both negative and positive, is all there. As Orthodox Christians, we are summoned by God to bear witness to what He has done in our lives and to proclaim it. This corner is YOUR testimonies, for both youth and seasoned veterans, to be shared by all. We are children of God and have much to say and be thankful for.

Please share your stories, we are ALL in this together.  
Send to: Nina James PO Box 6158 Wauconda, IL 60084  
coker.nina@gmail.com

**Holodomor Memorial Dedication**  
**N. Capitol Street & Massachusetts Avenue, NW**  
**Washington, DC**

Submitted by Daria Pishko Komichak

The Holodomor was a devastating, politically-engineered famine in Ukraine in 1932-33. On October 13, 2006, President George W. Bush signed HR562, sponsored by Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), which granted the government of



Ukraine the opportunity to erect on federal land in the District of Columbia a memorial to the victims of the Holodomor. The site for the memorial was approved on October 2, 2008. In September 2012, final design plans for the "Field of Wheat" concept were approved by the Commission of Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission. The Holodomor Memorial was designed by Ukrainian American architect Larysa Kurylas.

In 2003, on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor, President Bush issued a statement which read in part: "The world must teach lessons from this dark chapter in [Ukrainian] history to future generations and prevent atrocities like this in the future...It is because of this, that the Ukrainian-American community considers it extremely important that a monument to the millions of innocent victims of this Famine-Genocide be built in our nation's capital...[that] would serve as not only a memorial to those who perished, but also as a tool to help educate the global community about such heinous crimes."

Now finally, on November 7, 2015, the Memorial will be dedicated at an event sponsored by the US Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-33 and the Embassy of Ukraine. Ukrainian-Americans from across the country are planning to attend this historic celebration.

At the 68<sup>th</sup> UOL Convention in Northampton, Pennsylvania, the delegates recommended that the UOL take an active role in coordinating and encouraging support and attendance of this event. Details will be disseminated over the coming weeks through our parishes and Chapter Presidents. Please mark your calendars, save the date and plan to attend.

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expressed his gratitude, Protodeacon Ihor stated that the charitable work of St. Andrew's Society is possible in part because of the generous donations that are received from the members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. Bishop Daniel and Very Rev. Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha shared with everyone in attendance their personal observations about the ministry of St. Andrew's Society, as they had a firsthand opportunity to visit the refugee centers and soup kitchens in Ukraine that are sponsored by the organization.

Another donation, benefiting St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, that presently provides pastoral academic training to 6 full time seminarians and 7 part time students and seminarians of the Church, was presented to the Rector of the Seminary – His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, who stated that the donation of \$3,392 will be earmarked for the needed renovations of the building and some academic advancement programs of the Church's educational institution. Having concluded the first full day of business sessions, President Michael Komichak concluded the day with the call to everyone to participate in the Evening prayers and the BW special event sponsored by the hosting chapter.

The third day of the 68th Annual UOL Convention began with Morning Prayers at the hotel chapel. Upon the completion of the prayer service, His Grace Bishop Daniel offered a short reflection on the importance of prayer and the utilization of the Convention's prayer booklet by the missionaries of the Church and the impact of the prayers of the missionaries on the Orphanage Adoption program of the UOC of the USA.

Business sessions were called to order promptly at 9 am and the Junior Convention Body was treated to an address from Vladyka Daniel. The bishop spoke on the theme of this year's UOL Convention; however, at the same time, he spoke about the importance of an individual Christian experience and the powerful witness of Christ's love in the world. Later in the morning, the Convention body broke into Committees to further fine tune their recommendations. These recommendations will be available in the minutes of this Convention which will be posted on the UOL website for review.

After taking the customary Convention picture, both Seniors and Juniors broke for lunch. Immediately upon reconvening, the 68th Annual Convention



Committee from Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Coatesville, PA gave a stirring presentation highlighting what will be a wonderful week in 2016. Following a short break, additional reports were presented from various Committees, among them the Centennial Celebration, Membership Involvement and Development, Youth, UOL Holodomor Memorial Dedications, etc.

A treat to everyone in attendance was a short presentation of a few pre-teens (skillfully cared for by Subdeacon Richard Jendras, and Alexandra and Elizabeth Hucul) of the Convention body that offered two newly-learned songs and presented the Hierarchs of the Church with the hand-made gifts by the children of the Convention. Tabitha Bentley presented the results of the Essay Contest with 132 entries submitted.



Once the Nominations Committee reported, the elections took place. The new 2015-2016 Sr. National Executive UOL Board was announced:

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President: Michael J. Komichak, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ

1st Vice President: Karen Ferraro, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA

2nd Vice President: Janice Meschisen, Holy Archangel Michael, Woonsocket, RI

Treasurer: Jack Roditski, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ

Financial Secretary: Alex Shevchuk, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ

Recording Secretary: Pani Matka Olena Sendeha, Sts. Peter and Paul, Palos Park, IL

Corresponding Secretary: Daria Pishko-Komichak, Holy Ascension, Maplewood, NJ

Auditor: Teresa Linck, St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ

The Jr. National Executive UOL Board was also announced:

President: Kateryna Kocelko

Vice President: Erica Holowko

Treasurer: Kira Kuzmenchuk

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: Sofia Dobronos

Financial Secretary: Orest Mahlay

Before the final business item on the agenda was addressed, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony appointed the Very Rev. Fr. John Haluszczak to serve as the spiritual father of the Senior UOL Executive Board and Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sendeha as the spiritual father of the Junior UOL Executive Board. After a few other announcements, the 68th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention was adjourned and the delegates began their preparations for the Vespers service as well as a traditional UOL banquet.



On Saturday evening, the Convention Grand Banquet and Ball took place. The traditional awards were presented, as the final official acts during the Convention, by the Jr. and Sr. UOL Presidents, and the LSSK Committee and Seminarian Scholarships were announced. Seminarians of the Church were awarded scholarships from the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund.



The 68th Annual UOL Convention came to a formal conclusion on Sunday, July 26, 2015, as the delegates gathered at Holy Assumption Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Northampton, PA for the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, concelebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His

Grace Bishop Daniel – formally marking the 1000th anniversary of repose of the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr. Across the nation, numerous parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA will be celebrating the life of St. Volodymyr on July 28th – the calendar feast day; however, having gathered representatives from various UOL chapters and parishes from across the United States, the Council of Bishops of the Church designated the formal Church's celebration on a Sunday prior to the feast day.

As the procession of clergy and Hierarchs to the church took place, the icon of Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Great Prince Volodymyr was carried by the seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary. At the entrance to the church, the president of the Parish Board of Administration Martha Misko, Senior UOL President Michael Komichak and Junior UOL President Kateryna Kocelko presented the Hierarchs with the traditional Ukrainian Bread and Salt. The pastor of the parish family, Very Rev. Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha, sincerely offered words of prayerful welcome to the Metropolitan and the Bishop, asking them to pray for the success of the numerous ministries of the Church's central organization.

Joining His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel at the altar were spiritual fathers of the local and visiting parish communities: Very Rev. Bazyl Zawierucha, pastor of the Dormition (Assumption) of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Northampton, PA; Very Rev. Fr. James Norton;

Very Rev. Fr. Oleksandr Yatskiw; Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Perkins, pastor of Holy Archangel Michael Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Woonsocket, RI; Rev. Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Palos Park, IL; Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, OH; and Protodeacon Mikhail Sawarynsky of the Dormition of the Birth-Giver of God Ukrainian Orthodox parish in Northampton, PA. As the Liturgy progressed, over two hundred people approached the Chalice and received the Holy Eucharist at the Divine Liturgy. Parishioners from the local Ukrainian Orthodox communities, as well as from other Orthodox jurisdictions, participated in the services of the day.

At the conclusion of the service, His Grace Bishop Daniel called upon the newly elected executive boards of the Senior and Junior UOL to come forward in order to be presented to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, the Prime Hierarch of the UOC of the USA, 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!"

### Reflections on the 68th UOL Convention Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

The 68th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention was truly a celebration of the UOL family. Several years ago it was suggested that the UOL Convention take an abbreviated format and this was the first year that format was realized. The Convention, hosted by the Northampton Chapter, started on Thursday. During the day UOL'ers gathered and participated in a wonderful talk about icons led by Michael Kapeluck and Father Bazyl Zawierucha. UOL members were greeted at the hotel door by members of the UOL chapter, who had registration set up across from the hotel registration desk. The Best Western Hotel in Bethlehem has become familiar, with several conventions hosted here in the last decade. The Senior and Junior National Executive Boards held their pre-convention meetings prior to the Convention's start.

UOL delegates and guests gathered to review the accomplishments of the year and to make plans for the next year. In addition to the business sessions, the UOL Convention served as a time to rekindle friendships and to make new ones.

Sessions started on Thursday evening with Vice President Karen Ferraro calling the 68th Annual Convention to order. The presentation of colors and National Anthem was followed by a moment of silence in honor of UOL members of Blessed Memory. Following greetings, committees met for the first time.

The warmth and hospitality of the Northampton chapter was evident in the Hospitality night. It was a fun evening, with the crowds spilling outside and the weather was beautiful. The hospitality room was crowded with UOL members catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

Friday morning everyone gathered in the chapel for Divine Liturgy. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony and His Grace Bishop Daniel co-celebrated Divine Liturgy. This year all Convention participants joined in communal singing of the Divine Liturgy under the direction of Linda Winters. Following Diving Liturgy, all members joined for a full brunch.

That afternoon the major work of the Convention sessions was completed. This included the approval of the 67th Annual UOL Convention Minutes, review of the Annual Report and Audit Report, and review and approval of Financial Reports, which also included the acceptance of a 2015-2016 Budget. Convention Committees met to discuss important issues within our chapters and parishes, as well as to make goals and objectives for the Executive Board and local chapters. The committees were slightly different this year with one committee focusing on the Holodomor Memorial Dedication and UOL involvement. Another committee focused on the Centennial Celebration of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA that



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(Reflections - continued from page 5)

will be occurring in 2018. There was much discussion about the Convention for that year. Other committees focused on membership and strategies to involve Members-at-Large. After the individual committees met and discussed appropriate topics, each submitted a report to the convention body for final ratification.

During sessions President Michael Komichak presented Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay with a check in the amount of \$5450 for St. Andrew's Society for soup kitchens in Ukraine. These funds were raised as part of the UOL's Souper Bowl Sunday fund-raising project.



Friday evening was a fun filled night with an incredibly talented ventriloquist. She had Fr. Anthony Perkins as part of the act, singing and adding great fun to the evening. Later she had Oleh



Bilynsky, Sarah Hershey and Roger Seremula participate in the act, where they had to mouth the songs as she sang the words. That night everyone danced, danced, danced. It was a fun night where everyone got the chance to burn off some calories.

Following the excitement at the dance everyone gathered at the Coatesville Hospitality Room. It was fun to join with our Coatesville chapter and enjoy conversation and fellowship.

Saturday morning UOL members gathered for morning prayers and came to the business sessions, where reports for each of the committees were approved. An enthusiastic presentation was made by Lauren Bentley and the members of the Coatesville Chapter, hosts of the 2016 Convention. It was great fun with Coatesville chapter members dancing and happily awaiting the 69th UOL Convention. Based on the presentation, yummy snacks and the joy of the presentation, the Convention is bound to be fantastic.

Sessions started winding down with the election of officers, those individuals challenged to fulfill the goals set at this UOL Convention. A list of officers is included in the official press release. Later that evening UOL members and guests gathered for the official Banquet and Ball. The banquet is a wonderful time to celebrate the accomplishments of the last year.



Martha Misko served as mistress of ceremonies and she guided the evening very gracefully. She has been our host for several years, I think she will be moving on to host the Oscars soon! Awards were presented including Chapter of the Year to Carteret New Jersey, Fr. Hallick Holutiak award to Michael Woloschak of

Youngstown, Ohio, as well as presentation of Scholarship and Junior Awards (the list of winners will be presented in the next issue of the UOL Bulletin which is dedicated to the Junior UOL Convention). Additionally Metropolitan John Scholarships totaling \$15,000 to St. Sophia's Seminary were presented to the seminarians.

Following the banquet everyone enjoyed a fun night of dancing. This year the Convention Committee once again had a basket raffle and the winners were announced at the banquet. Also, the National Junior Raffle was held.



Sunday morning Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel were greeted by the Parish President as well as National Senior and Junior UOL Presidents at the Northampton parish. The church was full and the choir was absolutely beautiful.

At the conclusion of the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy the newly elected officers of the National Executive Senior and Junior Boards took their oath of office. Additionally, the icon of the Theotokos was passed to the Coatesville Chapter.

Following Divine Liturgy, everyone was invited to participate in a brunch at the Parish hall.

I always find it exciting to speak with UOL members who attend the Convention for the first time. They are always excited by the sessions and amazed by the Convention. They marvel at the friendships that exist. They also appreciate the conversations with fellow UOL members, and learning how we are so similar and experience similar joys and challenges within our chapters.



I think that when we have been at Conventions for many years, sometimes we take these very experiences for granted. Additionally, if we start to miss Conventions after attending for a while, we again don't appreciate how important the UOL Convention is for rekindling our focus.

I personally enjoy the conversations with UOL members, both Juniors and Seniors. The Convention is also unique because we have individuals of all ages attending. One memory from the Convention that brings a smile to my face is Nicholas Sampson (Nancy Druash Sampson's son) attending his first Convention. He was the sergeant at arms for the Juniors and was a star in the Chapter Challenge.

(continued on page 7)

(Reflections - continued from page 6)

When we have attended Conventions for many years, there is a tendency to look for a change that will revitalize our membership. In the search for a new idea we miss the beauty of the organization while focusing on the details. The goal of the UOL, and the joy, is the love of our UOL family. I believe we need to focus upon the beauty of the UOL and make a personal commitment to use our talents for the good of our chapters, our members, and our faithful.

I commend all of the Northampton chapter members for doing just that! Special thanks to Convention Chairpeople Martha Misko and Linda Winters, as well as to Spiritual Advisor Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha, for all of their hard work. Their labor of love in planning this convention truly serves as an inspiration to all of us.



If you have never attended a Convention before, mark your calendar and plan to attend the UOL Convention in Coatesville next year. If you missed this Convention, your family misses you.

Make plans to see others and enjoy the fellowship of your UOL family. Coatesville is a wonderful place to enjoy all of the wonderful aspects of the UOL.



**To Every Thing There is a Season**

**Psalm 23**

**Lenten Retreat  
Bethlehem, PA**

**April 2, 2016**



This year the retreat will focus on the challenges we all face throughout life, looking at the psychological



stages of life.

Fr. Anthony Perkins will speak about how to face these challenges from an Orthodox perspective.

**Senior UOL Chapter Achievement Award Presented to  
Carteret, NJ  
Submitted by Michael J. Komichak**

The Senior UOL Chapter Achievement Award for 2015 was presented to St. Demetrius Senior UOL Chapter in Carteret, NJ. This award is presented to the Senior Chapter that has shown the greatest achievement in terms of accomplishing the aims and purposes of the UOL during a one-year period of time. The winner of this award is selected based upon the Annual Report submitted by each chapter by the established deadline.

St. Demetrius Senior UOL Chapter members have engaged in Christian charitable works benefitting local, national, and international causes. They held numerous fundraising events, including a New Year's Day Luncheon



that raised over \$1200. The chapter made a \$250 donation to sponsor a seminarian to attend this year's 68th UOL Convention and sponsored the Mystery Dinner Theater at last year's 67th UOL Convention. The chapter once again sponsored the ice cream social with our bishops on St. Thomas Sunday. They donated \$4000 to their parish to fund improvements to the church's handicapped entrance. As their Spiritual Advisor Protopresbyter Taras Chubenko wrote: "God bless the Senior UOL - they are always there for our church and community."

Congratulations to St. Demetrius Senior UOL Chapter in Carteret!

*Country Zabava*

October 24, 2015

Philadelphia, PA



Come learn country line dancing!  
Dress as a cowboy or cowgirl!!

Or perhaps a horse!

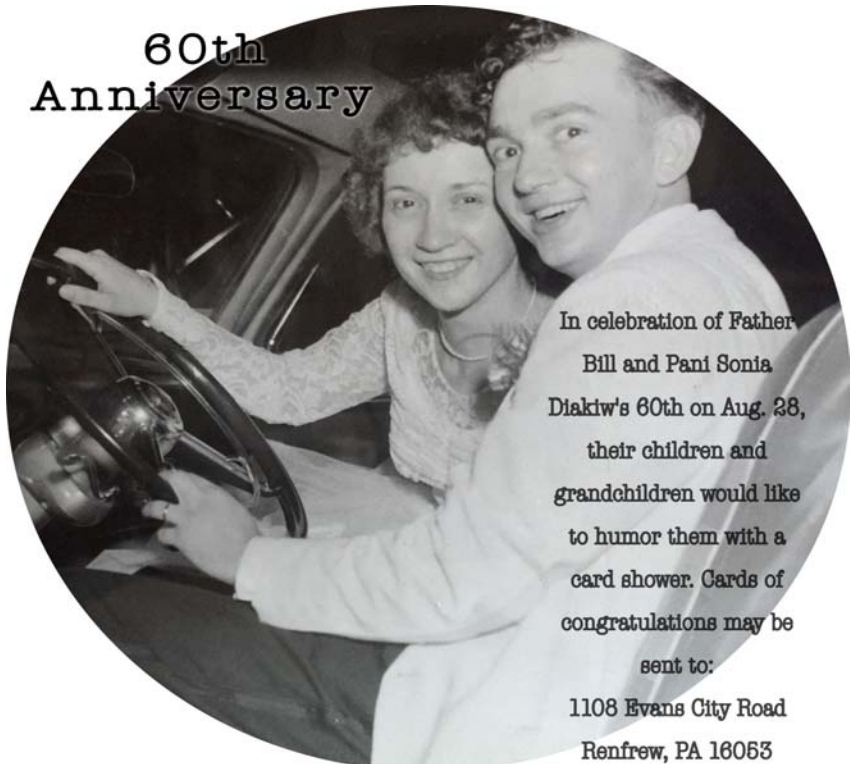
Come and have fun in the City of Brotherly Love (the heart of country?!?!?!). Enjoy dinner, dancing and fun!

For more information and tickets contact Natalie nsufler@aol.com



*National Executive Board Senior UOL  
2015-2016*

**60th Anniversary**

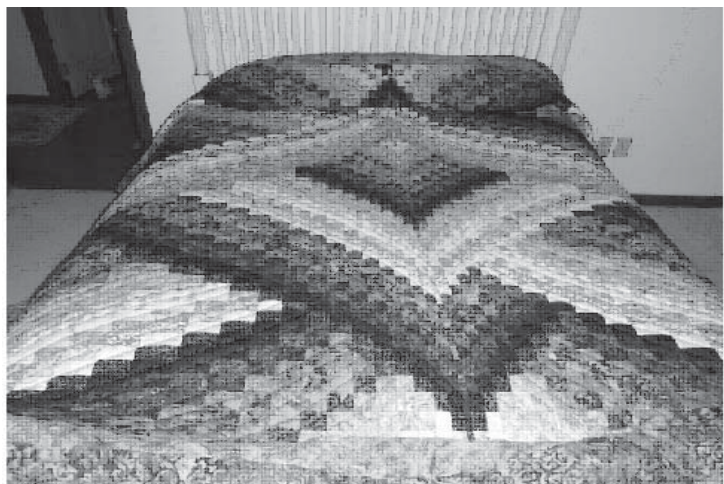


In celebration of Father Bill and Pani Sonia Diaktw's 60th on Aug. 28, their children and grandchildren would like to humor them with a card shower. Cards of congratulations may be sent to:  
1108 Evans City Road  
Renfrew, PA 16063

**Quilt Raffle – 2016 National UOL Convention**

**Sponsored by the Holy Ghost UOC**

**Senior and Junior UOL Chapters – Coatesville, PA**



To be raffled off at the 2016 National UOL Convention: An original, signed quilt, queen/king size, entitled "Lightening Strike." Created by: C. Joyce Horst. Value: \$1,455.00

C. Joyce Horst is a talented quilter whose creations have been commissioned for Pennsylvania's Governor's Mansion, the United States White House and have been featured in Hollywood movies. The quilt entitled "Millenium" was raffled off to benefit the Breast Cancer Society and raised \$30,000 for the cause.

Holy Ghost will have raffle tickets available beginning September, 2015. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Saturday night Banquet and Ball at the 69th Annual UOL Convention in 2016.

**More information will be available in September.**

**Please visit [HolyGhostuoc.org/2016](http://HolyGhostuoc.org/2016)**

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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.*

**Donor Occasion/Tribute**

St. Vladimir Senior UOL Phila, PA	In memory of Jeannie Karbiwnyk, long-time UOL member and inspiration to our chapter. Vichnaya Pamyat!
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*Have you been wanting to honor or thank someone special?*

*The tribute fund is the ideal way*

*to honor someone or commemorate a special event!*

*It is very easy to submit a Tribute.*

*Don't put it off -- send your tribute today!!*

**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 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063.

Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

**ATTENTION BULLETIN READERS:**  
**We haven't moved but our post office has -- when submitting items for the UOL Bulletin - please note change in address:**  
**Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road MEDIA, PA 19063**

UOL Bulletin  
c/o Natalie Bilynsky  
703 Pine Ridge Road  
Media, PA 19063

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**HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY 2015**

**Washington, D.C.**

<b>Friday, November 6</b> 7 P.M. Exhibit Opening/Reception	<b>Saturday, November 7</b> 2 P.M. <b>Dedication Ceremony</b> 10 A.M. – 7 P.M. Exhibit	<b>Sunday, November 8</b> 2 P.M. Concert
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