



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 69 NO. 3

DECEMBER 2022

UOL Presence at the 23rd Regular Sobor of the UOC of USA Submitted by Karen Ferraro

A report of UOL activity since the last regular Sobor in October 2019 was submitted and included in the reports given to all Sobor attendees. Highlights included:

- UOL adaptation to the lack of face-to-face interactions beginning in March 2020 with virtual educational webinars, virtual meetings, reaching out to Chapter presidents to discuss challenges, restructuring of fundraisers, such as Souper Bowl Sunday, serving our community in hard times, and hosting virtual annual UOL conventions.
- Highlights of our 73rd, 74th, and 75th UOL Conventions.
- Did you know we have donated over \$125,000 over the years to St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society via our Souper Bowl Sunday Fundraiser?
- The UOL awarded Metropolitan John Scholarships totaling \$19,485 between 2020 and 2022.
- Our Education Commission held virtual and in-person retreats, hosted four webinars, continued the Praying Our Way projects, and hosted the annual UOL Essay Contest.
- Although St. Thomas Weekend was cancelled for 2020 and 2021, the UOL returned to handling parking at the event in 2022.
- The UOL donated \$9,500 to summer encampments at All Saints Camp and \$6,700 towards our pledge of \$25,000 for the All Saints Camp Capital Campaign.
- Our UOL Bulletin was published 5 or 6 times each year and we maintained our online and social media presence.
- The UOL awarded over \$7,850 in LSSK scholarships.

The report concluded by honoring all of YOU, as follows:

UOL members are the backbone of our UOC of USA parishes. They sing in our choirs, they serve on our parish boards, they teach in our church schools, they run our Sisterhoods, and today, they are leaders in supporting Ukraine with humanitarian aid and assistance to local refugees. In spite of being kept busy with a full load of work and family commitments, it is important to them to make the time to participate in the activities of our National UOL and help their own parishes at the chapter level. Being in the UOL is an opportunity to interact with members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA from other cities, learn what they are putting into action in their parishes, and foster life-long friendships. Won't you join us in our mission? With minimal time, much can be accomplished! (Go, team UOL!)

Sr. UOL President, PM Laryssa Charest, was unable to attend the Sobor, so Immediate Past President Karen Ferraro presented the speech she prepared, which touched on our plans in this new UOL year.

Those who attended our convention in July may recall that Dr. Rebecca Druash volunteered to be the UOL delegate to the Sobor. At the Sobor, Rebecca was elected to the new Council of the Metropolia, along with Karen Ferraro. Also newly elected to the Council is UOL member Victoria Swindle. The current Sr. UOL President also traditionally serves on the Council of the Metropolia, as the head of an organization of the UOC of USA.

Developing Fellowship Across our UOC Parishes Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

At the 75th UOL Convention there was discussion about developing a strategic plan for the UOL and ways to enhance the organization. The UOL was built upon a structure where chapters are integral in the organization of the UOL. Within the structure of chapters the UOL has been able to accomplish much and will continue to do so.

As we review the list of approximately 90 parishes in the UOC of USA, there are multiple parishes with a limited number of faithful and limited resources. For many faithful, the chapter structure is particularly difficult and having another organization within the parish is not feasible. At the UOL Convention there was initial discussion about alternatives to support individuals where the chapter structure is more difficult because of where they live or the size of their parish. If forming a chapter is not possible, we want to be certain that the core of the UOL, building bonds and fellowship between members, is possible.

During COVID we learned how to foster connections virtually and the UOL should build upon that. With technology we can facilitate meetings virtually, but perhaps more importantly to foster fellowship virtually. For our Members at Large – can we develop a Fellowship Chapter – where the members can gather together virtually. It can be a meeting or a fellowship gathering to develop connections between members of the UOC of USA. As the lay organization of the UOC we can promote connections and develop bonds across the country. This year at the UOL Convention we had several members from our Philadelphia UOL Chapter who attended the Convention for the first time. I enjoy attending the Convention with someone who is attending for the first time. I have always believed that the true vision of the UOL is to form connections with other faithful.

At the first meeting of the 2022-23 National Executive Board there was a lengthy discussion about how to include faithful who might have difficulty forming a chapter. I would like to emphasize, the National Executive Board is not suggesting that chapters should decrease. Instead we are suggesting that there is a strategy to build connections and fellowship in addition to the chapter structure. We have heard for over a decade that it is difficult to form a chapter within some parishes – we want to be certain that members can develop a way to connect. In fact, we think that members of parishes might want to join some of the ways that we connect between parishes across the



country.

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76th Annual UOL Convention

Scranton, PA

July 27— 30, 2023

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M. Laryssa Charest UOL President 200 Walnut St. Carnegie, PA 15213 president@uolofusa.org	Natalie Swan Jr. UOL President	Natalie Bilynsky UOL Bulletin Editor 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063 nsufiler@aol.com	Fr. Harry Linsinbigler UOL Bulletin Spiritual Advisor
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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: nsufiler@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.

Culture Corner

Matushka Laryssa Charest Why is Kherson so important? And what's with the watermelon?

Very recently, you should have read or heard that the Ukrainian Army liberated Kherson, Ukraine. Though it has endured severe destruction, this city that was longest under Russian occupation now belongs to its rightful owner. This take back of control is a huge victory for Ukraine. This brings us closer to reclaiming Crimea. Our gain is Russia's loss. Control of Kherson would have meant that Russia would be one step closer to having complete control of Ukraine's access to the Black Sea. This loss, according to a Russian official, was just as big as the fall of the Soviet Union. Before we take a look at how it all unfolded, let's take a look at what the city looked like before the invasion.

Kherson was founded by Grigory Potemkin in the late 1700's. It was established as a fortress for the first Russian Naval Base and shipyard. It's location at the mouth of the Dnipro River makes it a seaport and a river port. Khersonshchyna, or the Kherson oblast, is bordered by Dnipropetrovsk to the North, Zaporizhia to the East, Crimea and the Black Sea to the South, and Mykolaiv to the West. The region is home to a little over a million residents, with the city of Kherson having a quarter of that population. Though in recent years the population had declined, the city was still showing economic growth and much promise. Prior to the invasion in February, the Kherson International Airport was remodeled in order to accommodate Boeing 737s. The city also was home to 15 universities and 77 high schools. There is also a railway station with daily departures to Kyiv and Lviv. A main attraction of the area is Lake Lemuria or otherwise known as Pink Lake. The lake is literally pink because of an algae that exists and produces large amounts of beta-carotene. Not only is it pretty to look at, but it also boasts healing and therapeutic properties. With the opportunity for travel and tourism, all signs were pointing toward growth for this area in the future. Then the war started.

The city of Kherson was the first to fall into the hands of the Russian occupiers. In fact, only a week after the war started, the mayor of the city of Kherson, Igor Kolykhayev, reported that Russians had taken over the city. The rest of the area followed in the months to come. On the 26th of April, Russia appointed a new Mayor of the oblast capital, a former KGB agent, Alexander Kobets. Two days later, the newly appointed administration announced that the region will now be using the Russian Ruble instead of the Ukrainian Hryvnia. At the end of May, Russian President Vladimir Putin offered fast-track Russian citizenship to those living in Kherson. This is when we got wind of Russia's intent of annexation. Then we saw a shift. On the 10th of July, Ukrainian civilians were strongly urged to flee the area. The first big sign of a counter-offensive. A week and a half later, the Antonivskiy bridge was severely damaged. Another strike by Ukrainians hit this key bridge, deeming it unusable. This bridge was one of two major crossing points from the right bank to the left bank thus isolating the aggressors. A month later, we started hearing of more cities in Khersonshchyna being liberated. This consistent pattern led to major advances by the Ukrainian army; about 1,200 sq. km. At the end of September, Russia announced referendums in four areas. President Putin then decreed the areas of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, and Kherson officially annexed. The official status was only seen in the eyes of Russia. By mid-October, Russia started hinting at defeat by urging its citizens to flee the areas where, as you may remember, they brought 'peace.' This was publicly endorsed by the Russian President on November 4th. Five days later the Russian Defense Minister, Sergei Shoigu, ordered his troops out of the area. On the 11th, Ukrainian troops were greeted warmly by Kherson residents waving Ukrainian flags.

Our victory in Kherson means a number of things. For one, Russia won't be able to hold an advantage through access of the Dnipro. Russia also doesn't continue to advance along the Black Sea allowing Ukraine to continue its business in agricultural exports. Another bonus, the frontline is now moving farther east and residents of Kherson get access to much needed humanitarian aid. To the residents, it's a sign of life not death.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL

Matushka Laryssa Charest



Glory to Jesus Christ!

Cue the trumpets! We have a location for our 76th UOL Convention: SCRANTON, PA! That's right. We're moving full steam ahead to bring you a great experience at a parish that doesn't even have a chapter. While in Carnegie at this past Convention, Fr. Philip and Panimatka Beth Harendza suggested the Scranton area. With some hard work and perseverance, Karen Ferraro and Pani Beth made it happen. AND, we have a theme - **'With God all things are possible'** (Mathew 19:26) How true!

Now, with St. Michael's parish of Scranton not having a UOL chapter but offering to help the NEB host the 76th Convention, they might win the prize for setting a trend for future conventions. If you're reading this and attend a parish that hasn't hosted a UOL Convention, think of how YOU could do the same. There are plenty of years to pick from and I'm more than willing to help get you started. Wouldn't it be nice if we had Convention bids for the next 5 or even 10 years? That can't happen without your help. Think about it. Pray on it. Do it. In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for more information about great things being planned for us in Scranton, PA.

In other, also exciting news, we are well into our Give 12 Fundraising Campaign. You should have received information about this 'call to action' to help us meet our \$25,000 Pledge to All Saints Camp. It's simple. 1. Pick a date. It can have a special meaning or be a random pick. 2. Choose whether you want your donation 'In Honor' or 'In Memory' of someone you know or love. 3. Send in your donation. 4. Tell a friend!

Just in those three steps, you're helping us get closer to achieving our All Saints Camp Pledge, you're giving someone a nice surprise when they receive an acknowledgement that you donated in their name, and you're ensuring All Saints Camp is around for many more generations to come. If you haven't sent your donation in yet, please do. We're only asking for \$12 dollars. That's an amount even our Juniors can donate! My 8-year-old, Sebastian, has already sent in his donation. Don't wait another minute!

That's all I'll say about our fundraising – for now. Other things that show our UOL is alive is that we're actively participating in the reading of scripture through the "Praying Our Way" program. This is a great opportunity for people to expand their prayer discipline and to experience more than the Sunday Gospel and Epistle readings we're already familiar with. This is a fantastic way to prepare for the Nativity of our Lord. If you haven't signed up for this program in the past, or this year, it's not too late – it's actually never too late to start a habit of regular reading of scripture. It's a challenge but I encourage you to accept it.

Yet another thing we're looking forward to early in the new year, is our Souper Bowl Sunday. This project supports St. Andrew's Society in its efforts to provide food to those in need in Ukraine. We know that now is another one of those times Ukrainians are suffering. All you have to do is make a pot of soup and serve it. Need a recipe? I'll give you one! This is a great way for anyone to get involved in a great cause. It's so simple.

But wait, there's more! We are in the process of organizing a Lock-In for our Juniors. After having so much fun at the 75th convention they couldn't wait to get together again. Follow us on FB to find out more. IF you know of juniors that would like to be involved, have them reach out to our Junior President, Natalie Swan juniorpres@uolofusa.org so she can help that Junior to be in the know!

With so many ways to participate, I hope you'll find one that fits you. And as always, if you just don't know where or how to start, please feel free to contact me. We are in this together!

I remain,


Yours in Christ,

Matushka Laryssa

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the UOL Convention in Scranton July 27-30, 2023

- 10 Take a picture at the "Scranton Welcomes You" sign
- 9 Take a tour of the scenes from the show The Office
- 8 Take a side trip to the local Pocono mountains
- 7 Go for a trip to see the waterfalls in the area
- 6 See all of the sites in Scranton
- 5 Enjoy communal singing at the Convention Divine Liturgy
- 4 Dress up and dance the night away at the Banquet and Ball
- 3 Enjoy discussions about how to help your parish and chapter
- 2 See all your friends from the UOL and make new ones
- 1 Participate in Divine Liturgy at St. Michael's in Scranton



 **76th UOL ANNUAL CONVENTION**
JULY 27-30, 2023
 Hosted by: UOL National Executive Board

Host Parish

St. Michael Parish
 540 North Main Ave.
 Scranton, PA 18504
 Fr. Philip Harendza

Hotel

Holiday Inn Wilkes Barre -
 East Mountain an IHG Hotel
 600 Wildflower Dr.
 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702



uol.orthodoxws.com/76thuolconvention
 Email: 76thuol@uolofusa.org



(Cultural Corner - continued from page 2)

So, what's with the watermelon? Well, it's kind of funny. A Ukrainian soldier took a video of himself being greeted by the residents of Kherson. He happened to be holding a watermelon. The region is the leading producer of watermelons in Ukraine. This went viral. Government officials have since tweeted watermelon emojis or posted pictures of themselves holding watermelons. You know what they say about Ukrainians...they're one in a melon.



MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Natalie Swan



СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ!
 GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

On behalf of the National Jr. UOL Board, I would like to extend a heartfelt and warm greeting to everyone this Thanksgiving season! As winter begins to approach, the Jr. UOL extends our prayers and wishes a healthy and safe holiday season to all.

The new church year is in full swing, which means that the Jr. National Board is actively brainstorming new ideas concerning our goal this year - recruitment and engagement. We recently met for our first official meeting of the year at St. Vladimir's in Philadelphia. It was so nice to be able to hold a "normal" meeting after two years of living online. At our meeting we were very productive in coming up with new activities, locally and nationally, to increase youth engagement in our Church. Some of which include regional outings to amusement parks or other outdoor activities, lock-in sleepovers in the church hall with crafts, competitions, and movies, and local service projects for less fortunate communities.

If your chapter has not yet reconvened this new church year, it is not too late! All you need is a few dedicated teens who can set aside a couple hours every month to work on service projects and attend social events with other Orthodox youth. Also note that preteens are a huge asset to any successful UOL chapter, as they will one day be the youth leaders of our Church. Whether you have a group of 10 or 100, it is the feeling of belonging and community which draws us closer. Every part of the Church is crucial to our future, especially clergy. We appreciate those clergy members who support and engage themselves with the youth of their parishes. If you are less active within your church's youth life, I encourage you to get to know the children you serve.

As President of the Jr. National Board, I am here to help and support your local chapter! If you need ideas or suggestions, or would like to request a visit, please contact me at nds122304@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
 Natalie Swan
 President Jr. UOL

Back by Popular Demand

Mary's Tears Prayer Bracelets

The bracelet, a variation of the Orthodox Prayer Rope, is made with seeds commonly called "Mary's tears." The beads are said to come from a plant that sprouted at the Cross during the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. The plant sprang from the tears of the Mother of God. A story is told that a monk struggled making a prayer rope and the Theotokos appeared to him as he was crying in desperation that he could not master the prayer rope. She placed these seeds into his hand so that he could create a prayer bracelet. The seeds of this plant naturally have an area that can be tied together.

The bracelet is beautifully packaged in an organza purse with a brief description of this story and how to use a prayer bracelet. All bracelets are made for adults (approximately 8 inches – with a slight variation based on the size of the seeds). Please specify if you request a larger or a smaller bracelet.

To order send your name, address, and phone/email. Bracelets are \$10. Please add \$2.00 for shipping. Please make check payable to "St. Vladimir's Senior UOL." Send order and payment to Natalie Bilynsky 703 Pine Ridge Road Media, PA 19063 Questions? nsufler@aol.com



(Developing Fellowship - Continued from page 1)

As part of this strategic plan, we are proposing that for members who are within smaller parishes or not currently affiliated with a UOC parish, there is a possibility of developing the fellowship that is the true essence of the UOL. As such, we are proposing several models for developing connections. There are several models being proposed because we honestly want to think about how to build the connections between members of the UOC of USA and it will be the need that dictates which of these are successful.

The first proposal is that there are connections between areas of focus within our parish life. The UOL is unique in that we have members who are active in many areas of the church. The UOL can foster support for each of these roles within the church. Here are some examples of how this strategy could potentially work.

Choir – the goal would be to connect individuals who are interested in obtaining resources related to liturgical music. The plan would be to develop a workgroup where individuals can share resources related to choir, including music, strategies to develop a choir, recruiting members, etc.



Religious education – the plan would be to connect individuals who are interested in planning religious education within their parishes. For example, connecting individuals who are preparing Sunday School lessons or leading bible study within their parishes. Again, the goal would be to share resources, including preparation for First Confession, Sunday School, St. Nicholas programs, etc.

Parish administration – as the lay organization of the UOC the UOL is unique in its ability to connect individuals who have questions about parish administration. For example, an officer can learn from other parishes about how financial books are maintained, what strategies have worked to manage a specific challenge, etc.

Support efforts in Ukraine and Refugees - at the UOL Convention many resources were discussed about how to support Ukraine. For example, lessons learned in one parish regarding how to support mailing of supplies or helping to support individuals who recently came to the US as refugees, can be shared. The goal would be to develop a network of resources and a space to discuss and share lessons learned.

The second strategy that can be used to foster connections is one focused on phases of life, perhaps even challenges in life. The suggestion would be to have “discussion groups” or virtual meetings facilitated by a priest to address questions for each of the following groups. As Orthodox Christians the joys and challenges of life can often be a place to unite and form bonds. The idea would be to have times when we can connect and support each other. Some examples of areas for groups:

Young parents - the goal would be to develop a support system across our parishes to provide resources for young parents. This could include educational sessions with clergy that focus upon helping young parents. Sadly, in many of our parishes young parents might be the only young parents in the parish - therefore, having a support across the country could assist our young parents.

Adults caring for elderly – a challenge that many of our faithful face is caring for aging parents. At a recent UOL Convention we had a speaker who focused upon this issue. The thought would be that members of the UOC can connect virtually and develop a support system.

Senior citizens – with our increased virtual mediums – the UOL can serve as a connector for members who might feel isolated. The UOL can foster developing bonds across our UOC of USA for our seniors. This connection can include chat times as well as educational programs for our seniors.

Young adults – At the UOL Convention there was discussion about developing a Young Adult group virtually to connect and reconnect with friends from the UOL and from Teenage Conference. Organizing times to connect virtually can potentially lead to resuming our Young Adult retreats, weekends and presence at the UOL Convention.

The third possibility of fostering connections is to encourage all UOL members and UOC faithful to support existing efforts within the UOL Commission and Committee structure. The UOL has Commission areas that have existing projects that can be supported by all UOC members. We encourage members of UOL chapters, Members at Large as well as all UOC faithful to support these. For example, we hope you will consider to volunteer and support:

Education – The UOL has a strong focus on education and we hope that you consider bolstering this strong system by considering writing articles for the UOL Bulletin, judging essay contests, assisting with planning or aspects of retreats, developing a program for children at the retreats, etc.

Youth – it is the goal of every member of the UOC of USA to assist in developing youth within our parishes. Perhaps you would like to assist with the Pre-Juniors, or would consider sponsoring an event for Young Adults.

Missions and Caregiving - The UOL has several well-established mission projects. During Thanksgiving every member of the UOC can conduct a food drive and make a donation to a local food bank with the donation labeled “In 1932 10 million people perished in an artificial famine in Ukraine, we pray no one ever goes hungry again.” The UOL also supports St. Andrew Society with Souper Bowl Sunday. Each of these Mission projects can easily be sponsored across all parishes of the UOC of USA.

Vocations and Clergy Support - Members can sponsor events to support the Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund and also be the members who sponsor an event for Clergy Appreciation Day.

In addition to the structure of Fellowship and Connection is the thought that through the year – we sponsor events at similar times. We suggest that across the UOC of USA we can build a community that has a similar calendar of events. It has been amazing how the UOL Souper Bowl Sunday has bonded parishes across the US to help the St. Andrew Society. Here is a sample schedule that could be used throughout parishes where an individual member or small group can make a huge impact.

Early fall – Back to School – sponsor activity related to supporting our Sunday School Programs across the USA.

Thanksgiving Food Collection and remembrance of the Holodomor. Every parish can donate food to a local food bank and place a sticker on the donation stating: “In 1932 10 million people perished in an artificial famine in Ukraine, we pray no one ever goes hungry again.”

Participate in Pray our Way for Phillips Fast – join in our reading during the month of December where faithful read from the old testament Monday through Friday in preparation for the Nativity. As part of this reading, we also have a prayer partner for whom you pray during the Fast. Consider joining the Pray our Way.

Nativity – Carol for All Saints Camp or carol to visit parish shut-ins.

Souper Bowl Sunday – Every parish of the UOC of USA can sponsor a Souper Bowl event to support St. Andrew Society. You can prepare an elaborate event with multiple soups or simply put out a pot to collect money for St. Andrew Society. Following the event consider writing an article for the UOC and UOL webpage as well as the UOL Bulletin.

Participate in Pray our Way during Great Lent, and join in our reading the Psalms Monday through Friday in preparation for the Resurrection of our Lord. As part of this reading we also have a prayer partner for whom you pray during Great Lent. Consider joining the Pray our Way.

During Great Lent participate in a UOL Retreat. We currently have two retreats, one in Eastern Pennsylvania and one in Western Pennsylvania.

UOL Essay Contest - consider writing an essay and be sure to distribute the essay topics within your parish to encourage participation.

Clergy Appreciation Day – the UOL has designated the Sunday after Ascension and prior to Pentecost as Clergy Appreciation Day. Consider sponsoring an event or writing a card to your clergy to support the Clergy within your parish.

Attend UOL Convention and All Saints Camp for Family Fest – we have events scheduled where we can connect as a family each year. Prepare to attend the UOL Convention and Family Fest.

Are you interested in helping our efforts to support members of the UOC of USA and would you like to support our efforts to build connections across our parishes? In review of all of these ways to connect, did one idea spark your interest? If you are interested in developing any of these ideas – please reach out to me – nsufler@aol.com. More information about each of these initiatives will be available on the UOL website and within the UOL Bulletin.

All Saints Camp Work Weekends Submitted by Josh Oryhon

We are pleased to announce plans to resume Work Weekends at All Saints Camp in 2023! All Saints Camp was established and is maintained by the generous hard work of our community. Friends of all ages and skill-sets are invited to participate in light labor and beautification projects around campus - no experience is necessary. Volunteers will stay on campus and meals will be provided. This time around we are announcing the planned projects ahead of time, so that volunteers can better prepare to participate.

2023 Work Weekends

*March 25-26: Cutting logs with wood splitter, preparing fence materials for installation

*April 29-30: Painting Washhouses

*June 10-11: Cabin/campus prep (cleaning cabins/buildings, assembling sports equipment, etc.)

We kindly ask that all interested volunteers register ahead of time - simply email josho@allsaintscamp.org or call (724) 867-5811

Join the #ASC2023 Team!

We are hiring for a number of positions:

- ➔ All Ages (14+)
- ➔ All Interests (Program, Facilities, Food Service, Lifeguarding)
- ➔ Paid+Volunteer Opportunities Available



GIVE \$12

Three years ago, the UOL pledged \$25,000 to All Saints Camp. The pandemic put us a little behind schedule. To help catch us up, we are launching a fundraising campaign during the month of December. It's called the Give \$12 Campaign!

We are asking for pledges in the amount of \$12. The goal of the day just happens to be the date. So, on December 1st we want 1- \$12 pledge, on the 15th of December we want 15-\$12 pledges, on the 31st of December we want 31-\$12 pledges- you get the hang of it! That's a total of 496 pledges. It seems like a lot but they're only \$12!

We are so excited about this campaign that we are going to let you start making your pledges the day after Thanksgiving. If you choose to make a pledge in honor of someone, we will send them an acknowledgment.

Until then, start thinking of the loved ones you want to honor through a pledge and be on the look out for more details!

Annual Fund Drive Please support the Ukrainian Orthodox League's Annual Drive for UOL Projects, Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship, And Metropolitan John Scholarship Funds

Donations to UOL Projects will be used for:

- *Publication of the **UOL BULLETIN**
- *Supporting the Youth Commission's activities
- *Outreach through the Christian Care-Giving and Missions Commission
- *Continuation of the Education Commission projects and services
- *Public Relations and other administrative necessities

Donations to the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship fund will:

- *Provide Scholarships to current or former Junior UOL members who are leaders in their parishes and communities and committed to their faith
- *Nurture the future leaders of our Church
- *Foster the UOL's motto: "Devoted to its Youth"

Donations to the MJSF Scholarship Fund will:

- *Provide tuition assistance to seminarians at our St. Sophia's Seminary
- *Encourage candidates to the Holy Priesthood
- *Provide tuition assistance to our clergy and seminarians for higher education

**Please take a moment and use the enclosed Envelope to make your donation today!!
Thank you for your continued support!!**

Ways and Means Commission News Submitted by Teresa Linck, Ways and Means Commission Chairperson

In this issue of the UOL Bulletin you will find the donation envelope for the UOL. As you can see the UOL needs the support of individuals and chapters to complete the tasks they have championed.

1. **Annual Fund Drive.** This drive is to raise funds for general UOL operations and donations. We are always making donations to the seminary and to All Saints Camp, without your and your chapter's help, we cannot accomplish all we wish to do. So please think of sending a donation or encouraging your chapter to make a donation.

2. **LSSK Scholarship Fund.** As you know we give scholarships to college age youth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church who are planning on continuing their education past high school. These scholarships are presented at each UOL convention. As a parent who has sent two daughters to college, I cannot thank the UOL enough for their generous scholarships for both young women. Please think of donating, you can donate to remember someone or to honor someone. Please remember Lynn and Sharon in your prayers.

3. **MJSF.** The Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund was created to help the young men who are starting their journey to become priests in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Each year we give the seminarians money to help defer the cost of their education. Please remember the seminarians in your prayers.

Each Bulletin you see a section for the **Tribute Fund.** What a lovely way to honor someone, celebrate a once in a lifetime event or memorialize someone. Please continue to support this worthwhile project.

Anyone needing Andrew's First Confession books, please feel free to contact me at 203-439-0287.

Meet the National Executive Board of the Senior UOL

For the 2022-2023 Term

Treasurer – Oleh Bilynsky

I am a member of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Philadelphia, where I serve on the Parish Board. I have served in various capacities at the National UOL level, and on the local level I am currently the Treasurer for St. Vladimir's Sr. UOL chapter. I grew up in Philadelphia, and have lived in Media, PA (formerly "America's Hometown" but now "Everybody's Hometown") for the past 26 years, since marrying Natalie.



I am a graduate of the Univ. of Pennsylvania (Wharton School) and Temple Univ. Law School, and have worked as an attorney for the past 28 years. I enjoy spending time with Natalie (whether at home, in our Pocono Mountains "retreat," or traveling) and our family members.

Corresponding Secretary—Brittany Brettell



My name is Brittany Brettell; I, along with my husband Scott, am a recent convert to the Orthodox faith (we became official members in January of 2021) and consider ourselves very lucky to have joined the warm and welcoming parish of St. Peter and St. Paul in Carnegie, PA. In addition to assisting with pierogi making, helping wherever I'm needed during parish fundraisers (such as potato pancake dinners, our annual Pysanky sale, etc.), I also have become a member of our parish's Senior UOL chapter and more recently, I was elected to the Senior UOL's National Executive Board as Corresponding Secretary.

Auditor - Tracey Sally

Tracey Sally attends St. Peter and St. Paul in Carnegie, PA and she was one of the co-chairs for the 75th UOL convention. She is an active member of her church and currently a member of the church council. She has served as both president and vice-president of the UOL in her parish. She did not grow up Orthodox but converted prior to marrying her husband in 2007. She jokes that she was not looking for a husband but a church where she felt comfortable and connected. She has embraced the Ukrainian culture as well. She loves making pysanky and has her own shop called Love4Pysanky on Etsy.com. Most of her work is donated to St. Peter and St. Paul's annual pysanky sale. When not working as a store manager for Rite Aid she enjoys canoeing, fishing, camping, reading, sewing, and playing with her dog Noel.



Second Vice President - Natalie Bilynsky



I am Natalie (Sufler) Bilynsky from the St. Vladimir parish in Philadelphia. I have been a member of the UOL since I was 12. You can call me a "lifer." As a Junior I served as the Recording Secretary and two terms as Junior UOL President for the Junior National Executive Board. As a senior I have served as the Junior Advisor, several offices and for over 15 years I have been the UOL Bulletin Editor. I also have been a member of the Philadelphia Chapter as a Junior and now as a Senior. I have been the President of the Philadelphia chapter for over a decade. Some of my

closest friends I met in the UOL. The UOL is a central part of my identity and I am forever grateful for all of the wonderful people I have met in the UOL.

Professionally I am a licensed psychologist. I currently work for Community Care Behavioral Health, the Managed Care Company for Behavioral Health as the Regional Director for Delaware County. We provide funding for all Behavioral Health Services for all individuals with Medical Assistance. I have worked as a psychologist for about 25 years in community mental health settings.

I am married to Oleh (who is also on the National Executive Board). We have been happily married for 26 years. Many of our UOL projects are team efforts. We plan the UOL Retreats together and he reviews the UOL Bulletin. He is a wonderful husband and I could not dream of a better partner in life.

In addition to family, work and UOL we love to travel and have had the privilege of traveling to over 30 countries.

It is time to start planning for your "Souper Bowl" Sunday

February 12, 2023

Parishes across the USA have supported St. Andrew Society by planning a Souper Bowl Sunday event. Some parishes sponsor elaborate lunches with dozens of soups. Others have requested donations on the Sunday of the Super Bowl.

Has your parish participated in this wonderful event? We hope you consider sponsoring a "Souper Bowl Sunday" fundraising event at your parish or just make a donation! Ask members from your parish to bring a pot of soup to sell to support St. Andrew Society. Proceeds benefit St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society for soup kitchens in Ukraine serving the most needy.

Saint Andrew's Society, an organization of our faithful, has maintained soup kitchens and food parcel delivery service for the needy, elderly and handicapped in Ukraine for many years. The National UOL, through the efforts of members and chapters, has participated by hosting fundraising events and donating to this ongoing project. One of the many ways chapters have raised funds, is to plan a soup luncheon after Divine Liturgy during the Super Bowl Season, proceeds benefiting the soup kitchens.

Saint Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society was founded in 1990 by faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA as a religious and charitable organization.

As an integral ministry of the Church, the Society's philanthropic mission focuses on providing humanitarian assistance to the needy and supporting church-related projects in Ukraine.

Saint Andrew's Society fulfills its mission and vision by:

- providing humanitarian aid to the needy, the orphans, the elderly and the refugees in Ukraine;
- providing financial and logistical assistance to Seminaries in Ukraine and scholarships for theological students to study abroad;
- supporting publications of religious literature, medical projects and church restorations.

Questions? Contact Senior UOL Christian Caregiving and Missions Chairperson, Anna Anderson

Save the Date - April 1, 2023

Retreat will be in the Philadelphia area

Fr. Anthony Perkins will be speaking



Praying our Way Together

Looking for something to heighten your spiritual journey to prepare for Pascha. During Great Lent we will be reading the Psalms.

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



Please sign up by March 1, 2023

UOL Bulletin Pictures



Fr. John Nakonachny and Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny enjoy the UOL Bulletin at the Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia.



Pam Scannell reads the UOL Bulletin in Kansas City!

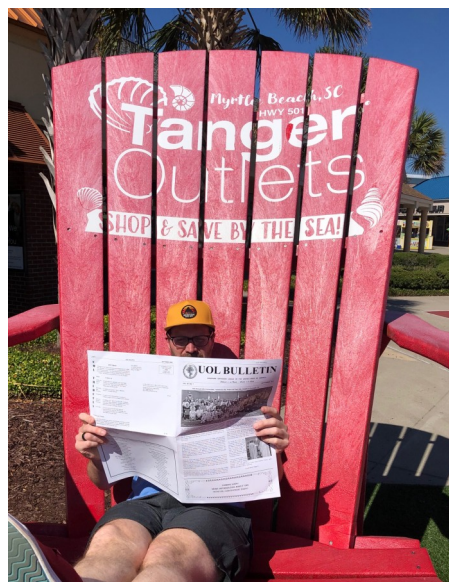


Michael Nakonachny reading the UOL Bulletin prior to getting a taco.

*Join in the fun!
Take a picture reading your UOL Bulletin!
Submit pictures by sending to
nsufler@aol.com*



Oleh Bilynsky reads the UOL Bulletin prior to seeing Old Faithful at Yellowstone National Park.



Michael Nakonachny reading the UOL Bulletin in Myrtle Beach, SC.



Michael Nakonachny enjoys the UOL Bulletin with his new friend Bugee.



Oleh Bilynsky reads the UOL Bulletin at the Chapel of the Transfiguration at Grand Teton National Park.



Members of the Sts. Peter and Paul Senior UOL chapter in Carnegie enjoying the UOL Bulletin during coffee hour.

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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
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063

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In Honor of

Dr. Peter and
Karen
Konchak

In honor of Karen Ferraro as past
President of the UOL.

Gary
Gebet

In memory of Dr. Steve Sivulich.
Memory Eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

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

Send your tribute today!

The image is a promotional graphic for the 76th Annual UOL Convention. It features the UOL logo on the left, which is a circular emblem with a cross and the text "UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE" and "УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЛІГА". The main text reads "76th Annual UOL Convention!" in large, bold, yellow letters with a blue outline. Below this is the slogan "Building on the past, looking toward the future!" in a black, italicized font. At the bottom, there is a stack of four colorful LEGO bricks (green, blue, yellow, red) with the dates "July 27 to 30, 2023" written on them. To the right of the bricks is a yellow envelope with a red circular stamp that says "SAVE THE DATE". The entire graphic is framed by a black and white checkered border.