

# Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Philadelphia's Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center holds annual meeting**

*Jenkintown, PA – October 28, 2007.* The 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center was held Sunday, October 28, in the UECC Gallery.

Registration for the meeting for UECC members and delegates of Ukrainian member organizations began at 12:00 p.m. Materials pertaining to the meeting were distributed at registration including the annual report published in English and Ukrainian. Shortly after 1 p.m., the meeting began with a call to order by UECC President Borys Pawluk. Stefan Makuch, a former UECC Board of Directors Member, led the opening prayer. After a verification of the quorum and approval of the agenda by the members and delegates of Ukrainian organizations with UECC membership, Secretary Sophia Koropecykj read the minutes of the last annual meeting held on October 29, 2006. After the minutes were read, a vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Borys Pawluk opened his President's Report with an explanation of how he approached his first year as president of the UECC including a restructuring of the Operations and Organization of the UECC and the creating of separate sectors each with a Vice-President responsible for committees and sector work. In his report and PowerPoint Presentation he focused primarily on the UECC Mission Statement, UECC Organization, Facility and Office Operations, and the accomplishments of the five sectors, including the Administrative Sector, Finance Sector, Building and Property Utilization Sector, Program Sector, and Communications Sector. Mr. Pawluk also spoke of UECC Membership, which totals 1096 (individual and family members holding full voting rights), 52 Member Organizations, and 12 new individual/or family members who received full voting rights this year.

President Pawluk ended his report with his vision of the path forward and critical success factors for the UECC. He stated it is critical to have the cooperation of members and member organizations and that the UECC and they need to commit to work together as unified Ukrainian community-hromada. He reminded those present that in the formative years of the UECC, the member organizations contributed 50% of revenue generated, today the number has dramatically been reduced to about 15%. He focused on the completion of the Master Plan and that Phase I of that plan has begun. President Pawluk emphasized that Strategic Planning has been initiated and will be fully developed during the coming year.

The Audit Committee, consisting of three UECC Directors, who are not members of the Finance Committee, met prior to the annual meeting to audit the financial books, records,

operations, and financial statements of the UECC. Roman Petyk, representing the Audit Committee, reported that the committee is satisfied with its review and the UECC financial report for the 2006-2007 and recommends it to the members.

In the Nominating Committee Report, Petrusia Sawchak recommended five candidates to the Board. They included Tanya Husar, Lubomyra Kalyta, Basil Kuzio, Zoriana Sochatska-Atlantova and Myron Soltys. She read short biographies of each candidate and emphasized their backgrounds and strengths, which collectively included strengths in finance, event planning, and organizational skills.

As stated in the Bylaws, the UECC Board of Directors consists of 24 members whose terms of service are staggered. All UECC board terms are for three years. Candidates are capable, willing and sincere individuals who possess the skills necessary for the performance of the various activities of the board.

All five elected candidates for the UECC Board of Directors were approved by a unanimous vote.

Petrusia Sawchak stated that the Nominating Committee submitted Bohdan Mizak, Larissa Patrylak, and Maria Schwed, through the co-opting process, to the UECC Board during the 2006-2007 and is recommending their confirmation at the annual meeting. Mrs. Sawchak also submitted and recommended the re-election of current Board members including: Irene Bereziak, George Danyliw, Natalka Firko, and Roman Petyk.

All candidates for confirmation and re-election were approved by a unanimous vote.

Also elected were member of the Nominating Committee and the Election Committee, both consist of UECC members and members of the UECC Board of Directors. Ulana Prociuk, Petrusia Sawchak, and Nestor Tomalishchak were elected and will serve on the Nominating Committee for 2007-2008. Halyna Horajecka-Keller, Anna Makuch, and Roman Zavadowych were elected and will serve on the Election Committee for the same term.

Roman Petyk, representing the Bylaw Committee proposed five amendments to the Bylaws. They included an increase in the length of leases, clarification of the Directors' obligation to the Center, clarification of the removal of Directors, clarification of the powers of the President, and a revision stating that members of the Audit Committee may not be members of the Finance Committee.

After a brief discussion on the proposition, UECC members and delegates cast their ballots and the proposed five amendments passed successfully. At the time of voting on the Bylaw amendments, there were 2513 votes present, more than the 1439 or 20% of the quorum needed to vote. The last time the Bylaws of the UECC had been revised was on October 26, 2003.

During the discussion at the meeting, concerned UECC members raised many issues, but the focus of the discussion centered on building UECC membership and aggressive grant writing. Many members voiced their opinion on who to reach as potential members. The

issue of attracting the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of present UECC members was presented emphasizing that we should not only try to tap into the new Fourth Wave of Ukrainian immigrants. Various fundraising ideas were brought mentioned and the need of applying for federal, state, and local grants for meeting fundraising goals.

The annual meeting adjourned with UECC President Pawluk thanking members and delegates of Ukrainian organizations for their attendance and participation at the meeting. He congratulated the new and re-elected UECC Board of Directors and thanked the outgoing Board, especially Petrusia Sawchak and Edward Zetick, Esq. for their many years of devoted work at the UECC. Borys Pawluk expressed his gratitude to the hardworking group of volunteers who work diligently at the many fundraising events, especially the bazaars, making and providing the food including the varenyky and holubtsi. He finished with thanks to all who donated money to this year's Phonothon, making it the most successful Phonothon ever, surpassing the designated goal of \$100,000.

Immediately after the annual meeting, the drawing for the Malanka Cruise Surf & Turf Raffle was held. Vice President Natalka Firko announced the winners while outgoing Treasurer Ed Zetick, Esq. pulled the winning raffle ticket stubs. After the six winners were announced, UECC members continued informal discussions over coffee and sweets.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046 and can be reached at 215-663-1166 or e-mail at [contact@ueccphila.org](mailto:contact@ueccphila.org). Visit us on the web at [www.ueccphila.org](http://www.ueccphila.org).

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