

Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UECC 2007 President's Report

Jenkintown, PA – October 28, 2007. UECC President Borys V. Pawluk presented the annual president's report at the 28th annual meeting of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center held Sunday, October 28, 2007 in the UECC Gallery.

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.

President Pawluk reminded those present of the UECC Mission (Article II of the Bylaws of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, approved October 27, 2003): To establish and maintain facilities for the promulgation of Ukrainian culture and heritage among individuals of Ukrainian descent and the community at large; to promote, support, conduct, and maintain social services and educational programs fostering language, history, arts and crafts relating to Ukrainian heritage and culture; and to act and function exclusively for charitable and educational goals.

This year's Facility and Office Operations accomplishments were presented and included a detailed listing of all recent building and property improvements; a report on the managed Usage Agreements and a listing of tenants including six UECC Programs (Ukrainian Heritage School, Ukrainian Library, Svitlychka Day Care, Prometheus Male Chorus, Ukrainian American Senior Citizen Associations and the UECC Radio Program), fourteen Ukrainian Organizations, and seven non-member agreements (New Horizons Day Care, YMCA Summer Camp, St. Francis University classes, Metropolitan Ballet Company, Republican Club, Soloveiko Gift Shop, Café Services). The UECC Office Administration supported 71 events held by the UECC and member organizations at the Center and initiated accepting Visa/MasterCard as a new form of payment at event ticket sales.

UECC Social Services work included accomplishments in two areas: new immigrant services and community support. Work for new immigrant services encompassed visa extensions, affidavits of support for visitors to the United States, procedures for Green Card applications, Permanent Residence applications, rental rebates and Section 8

housing and the registration and providing transportation for the Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine at the New York City Consulate of Ukraine. Community support included the Taras Shevchenko “Academia”, Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration, Executive Director Orysia Hewka invited to serve on the Congressional Advisory Board for Senior Citizens, and Mrs. Hewka obtained a certificate for “Disaster Preparedness Training for Community Leaders” of Temple Univ. – US Dept of Homeland Security, and involvement and assistance at the Taras Shevchenko Park, Taras Shevchenko Park (TS Park) located at Broad Street and Somerville Avenues in Philadelphia, PA, part of the City of Philadelphia Park System.

The Administration Sector under Vice President Petrusia Sawchak developed and implemented a new filing system and Office Procedures. Borys Pawluk reported that a Building Safety Procedures was formulated and a Building Operations Manual is being developed. An Action List was organized and is being utilized – to date, 76 items listed, 33 completed. A new administrative assistant, Ivanna Biletsky, and a new social service assistant, Sofia Prasko, were hired. Along with the Executive Committee, four orientation meetings with organization, the UECC Board of Directors and UECC were held to improve cooperation and efficiency. UECC Membership totaled 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.

The Finance Sector under Vice President Sophia Koropecykj revamped the accounting system, formalized cash management procedures for events, analyzed usage costs and implemented rent increases for Center tenants, consolidated bank accounts, implemented budgeting and cost code systems. The Grant Committee applied and received a \$5,000 PA Department of Economic and Community Development grant from PA State Rep. Josh Shapiro for reconstruction of entry. Borys Pawluk reported on usage fees for members and non-members, permanent UECC tenants (largest tenant New Horizons Day Care) and UECC short-term tenants (YMCA, St. Francis U., Touch Productions). He reported on ways the UECC generates money including single usage events, the Phonothon, grants, and contributions (individual donations, matching funds, Kolyada, etc.).

Total revenues during this fiscal 2007-year increased by 6% to \$520,327 when compared with last year’s sum of \$489,726. A percentage breakdown of revenues included: annual rentals – 34.4%, of which the day care center alone accounted for more than half of rental revenue, donations – 26.5%, events (bazaars, dances, etc.) – 24.1%, single rentals – 7.8%, miscellaneous income – 2.9%, educational – 2.7%, and interest income – 1.7%.

Total expenses totaled about \$440,000 during the fiscal 2007-year. They increased by less than 2% over the previous fiscal year. The largest increase in facilities expenses was due to outlays such as payment of \$12,500 to the architects responsible for creating the Master Plan for future facility expansion and \$15,600 for HVAC system purchases. In addition, heating oil costs increased by 28%. A percentage breakdown of expenses included: facilities – 41.8%, administrative – 31.2%, fundraising – 21.9%, educational/cultural – 4.3%, other – 0.8%.

The Building and Property Utilization Sector under Vice Presidents Lubomyr Pyrih and George Danyliw developed housekeeping schedules and procedures for custodial staff, purchased and installed 5 heat pumps to provide secure HVAC for coming heating season. A HVAC and EPS Task Force provided recommendations for reliable heating and air conditioning and electrical power system for entire building. The Building Sector started remodeling and reconstructing lavatories adjacent to auditorium with work expected to be completed by the New Year. The development of three phase Master Plan was completed and the sector has begun implementation of Phase 1 over the next several years: main entrance and handicapped access, new acoustical ceilings, new flooring, upgrading of main floor lavatories, wheel chair lift between auditorium and main floor and replacement of existing windows. The schedule for Phase I is 4 to 5 years at an estimated cost of \$780,000.

The Program Sector under the direction of Vice President Natalka Firko organized and conducted 12 UECC events in this reporting year. It coordinated many events at the Center for the Ukrainian and American communities – and supported 71 events. It promoted Ukrainian culture and heritage and actively supported fundraising efforts. It collaborated with organizations to foster ties within community. Of the many events held by the UECC, the following is a list of the most important: Film Festival co-sponsored with the Ukrainian Library and the Shevchenko Society, Christmas Bazaar, New Year's Winter Fantasy Gala, Shchedriy Vechir, Ukrainian Cartoon Festival featuring "Cars" dubbed in Ukrainian, Svyato Shevchenka, Easter Bazaar, Young Adult Film Festival featuring "Pirates of the Caribbean" dubbed in Ukrainian, Vasyl Popadiuk and Papa Duke - Cabaret Night, Den' Ukrainskoyi Dytyny, Ukrainian Independence Day, and the Annual Meeting.

The Communication Sector under Vice President Borys Zacharczuk is responsible for the overall direction and control of the public relations activities of the UECC. Communication is one of the UECC's most important activities. Recent accomplishments included work by its five committees. The Radio Program, WNWR 1540 AM is in its 12th year of broadcast with 52 programs aired and 11 special guest interviewed. The Public Relations Committee recently assisted Friends of Shevchenko Park at their Jazz Festival in October with the compiling and printing of an informational brochure on Taras Shevchenko. The Archive Committee continually organizes documents and records from 2000-2007 periods. In an effort to reach an even greater audience and build more awareness, the Website Committee created a new Web site. The site, www.ueccphila.org was launched on March 21, 2007 with a new Webmaster, Andrea Zharovsky. As of October 22, 2007, it had received 2,440 visitors from USA, Canada, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, and Australia. The Press Committee was very active this year and had over 38 articles published in Ukrainian and local American press this year featuring UECC news and events.

UECC 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 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. Visit us on the web at www.ueccphila.org.

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