

From the Ukrainian Orthodox League

The members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League gathered in a virtual format for their 74th Annual Convention in July. The League planned on meeting face-to-face in Philadelphia, but after polling chapter presidents, it was decided the organization as a whole was not quite ready to return to our normal format due to the continued pandemic. The members of the Junior UOL, however, gathered in person at All Saints Camp during Teen Conference for their convention and had a joyous celebration of their 60th Anniversary, complete with the singing of Happy Birthday and the sharing of cupcakes!

As time was limited in the half-day Senior UOL convention, the normal breakout sessions were scheduled as evening virtual meetings in subsequent weeks. Three planning sessions were held focusing on: **Chapter "Lite"** – A concept to modify the requirements to maintain a UOL chapter, making it easier for small parishes to participate; **Youth and Young Adults**; and **growing the UOL**. Additionally, the UOL Senior National Executive Board held a session to discuss expanding our offerings in the areas of spiritual growth through education, increasing our involvement in charitable efforts, and outreach across the UOC of USA via new methods of communication.

At the Annual Convention, the UOL presented a donation of \$10,948 to St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Society raised at the 2021 Souper Bowl Sunday event. This was a special blessing, as many chapters and participating parishes could not host their normal sales of soup given pandemic restrictions, and instead requested donations from the faithful. We are thankful to all who saw the need and reached out to donate!

There was one recipient of the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt (LSSK) Scholarship this year – Madeline Zetick. Maddie was the outgoing national Junior UOL president and also was president of her local Junior chapter in Philadelphia. Additionally, the UOL was happy to present ten (10) Metropolitan John Scholarships to those attending St. Sophia Seminary.

UOL Conventions are a primary source of income and a two-year period with virtual conventions has been financially challenging. Nonetheless, the UOL was able to donate \$8,000 from its savings to pay off the newly-purchased Seminary Van. Funds collected by attendees of the 2020 virtual UOL Convention, in the amount of \$1,700, were donated to All Saints Camp toward a pledge of \$25,000. Additionally, the UOL donated \$3,500 to 2021 encampments at All Saints Camp and \$500 to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship organization for college students.

The UOL continues to be "Dedicated to our Church – Devoted to its Youth" and we look forward to a year of growth! See our website uolofusa.org for details and "like" our Facebook page. We are looking to the future with enthusiasm as we serve the Church! Don't have a UOL Chapter at your parish? Come along – you are WELCOME! Reach out to Senior UOL President Karen Ferraro at president@uolofusa.org then join us for our 75th Annual UOL Convention in July 2022 in Carnegie, PA!