

A. DRAGAN

UKRAINIAN
NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION



1894 — 1964



*UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION:
ITS PAST AND PRESENT*

A. DRAGAN

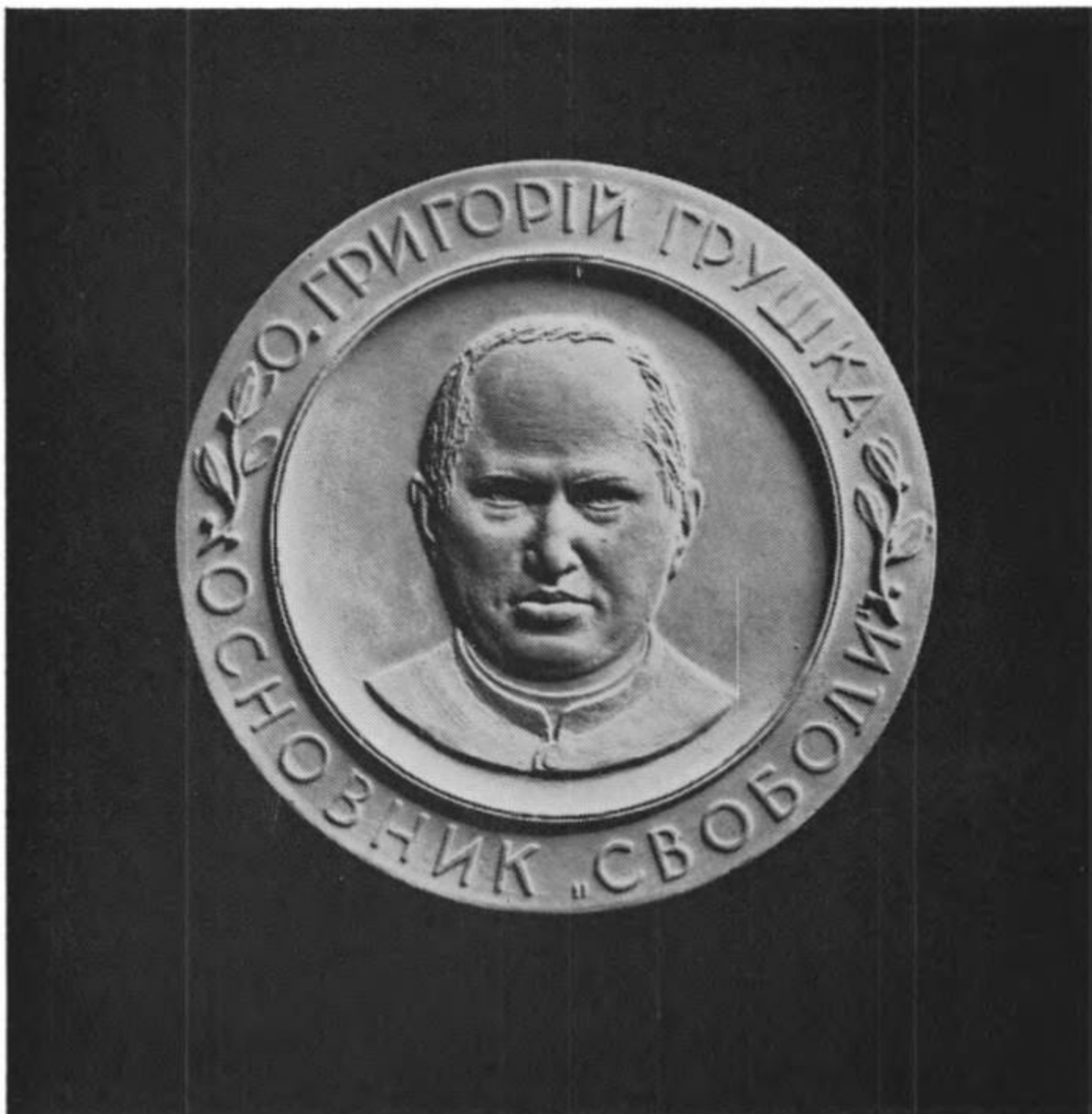
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Its Past and Present
(1894 - 1964)



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REV. GREGORY HRUSHKA,
Founder of "Svoboda" and the Ukrainian National Association (portrait fashioned by sculptor Michael Chereshniovsky on a medal issued on the 70th anniversary of "Svoboda")

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PREFACE

This book, originally published in Ukrainian on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Association, does not pretend to cover its entire history. It is rather a story, a kind of report, on the origin, the early beginnings, the gradual development of this, the oldest and largest Ukrainian organization in the Free World, which gave rise to and became the basis of the Ukrainian organized life in diaspora. It has made a marked contribution to the growth and development of the United States and Canada, and to the progress and aspirations of the Ukrainian people, particularly in their relentless struggle for freedom and political independence.

In preparing this story we have deliberately concentrated on the early beginnings of the UNA. Its later development, particularly the modern period, is still fresh in our memory. But it was the early pioneers who cleared the road to progress,—not without struggle, tireless effort, and plain hard work.

The writing of this story was not difficult, especially as regards source material. The seventy annals of SVOBODA, official press organ of the UNA, would alone provide enough material for an extensive, documented historical treatise on the UNA. In addition, the convention proceedings and minutes of the annual Supreme Assembly meetings provide exhaustive and authoritative source material, as do countless memoirs, articles, reports, and commentaries published in the UNA and SVOBODA almanacs. There are also “living sources,”—the pioneer-leaders who remember much about the past and are glad to reminisce about it.

Yet the most exhaustive and the most meticulously collected and arranged source material on the history of the UNA can be found in the two UNA jubilee books edited by Dr. Luke Myshuha: the COMMEMORATIVE BOOK, published in 1934 on the 40th jubilee anniversary of the UNA, and the JUBILEE ALMANAC, published in 1944 on the 50th anniversary of the UNA. Appropriately supplementing these works is the collection UKRAINIANS IN THE FREE WORLD, published and edited in 1954 on the occasion of UNA's 60th anniversary by Dr. Myshuha and the author of this story.

Our purpose in writing this book was to tell how the UNA came into existence and how it developed in the light of the general growth of our community, our countries, and our people, inasmuch as the UNA constitutes an integral part of all of them. We hoped also to explain and interpret some of the more significant events and to present the UNA in all of its diversified aspects and activities, which frequently may be overlooked or misinterpreted.

We are quite aware of the many shortcomings of this story, even within its modest framework. We only hope that the material compiled in this book will help the reader know and understand the nature and the purpose of the Ukrainian National Association, which is to mobilize Ukrainian forces and resources in America and Canada so as to render the best possible service to the United States and Canada, to its own membership, and to the Ukrainian people at large.

The English edition of this book, published originally in Ukrainian, was prepared by Mr. Zenon Snylyk.

I. THE EARLY BEGINNINGS

1894-1900

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD. . .

In the beginning was the word. . . Such was also the case with the Ukrainian National Association. . . In its beginning was the word, the warm, sincere, and convincing word-idea that became a reality around which the life of Ukrainian Americans evolved in its many forms and facets from the last decade of the past century until the present day.

And it all began on September 15, 1893, with the appearance of the first issue of *Svoboda*. The fourth issue (November 1, 1893) of this future organ and spokesman of the UNA carried a full first-page article which in effect contained the creative idea that was soon to become a great reality,—the Ukrainian National Association. Since in our opinion this article played a decisive role in the establishment of the Ukrainian National Association and in the continued growth of Ukrainian organized life in this country, and since we consider it to be one of the most illuminating documents of this Ukrainian American pioneer era, we are reprinting it in full, replacing only the term "Ruthenian" with "Ukrainian." The article, entitled "We Need a National Organization," reads as follows:

"In the previous issue (of *Svoboda*), we promised that we would explain how we, Ukrainians, living here in freedom, can improve our lot and show our neighbors that the Ukrainian people are also part of America and occupy a place of honor among all other peoples.

"We shall not waste words here but proceed directly to the subject-matter that should be of concern to every living Ukrainian.

"Just as the fish needs water, as the bird must have wings, as the thirsty need to drink and the hungry need bread, just as every one of us needs air, so do we all Ukrainians scattered across this land need a national organization, namely such a brotherhood, such a national union that would embrace each and every Ukrainian no matter where he lives. One man cannot lift a heavy stone, but when three or four men put their strength to it, the stone will soon be lifted. It is just as difficult for one man to rid himself of want and poverty, but with the help of a few he can do it. One man cannot help all, but all can easily help one man.

PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNA



Rev. Agapius Honcharenko

The founding of the Ukrainian National Association can justly be considered as having given rise to the Ukrainian American community in its diversely organized form. Thus it seems only proper that we examine at least in general terms the events that preceded the establishment of the UNA since the arrival of the first Ukrainian immigrants to the New World.

According to Dr. Luke Myshuha (*UNA Commemorative Book*, 1936), the first Ukrainian settlers on American soil were 20,000 Kozaks who came to Alaska at the end of the eighteenth century and remained there after Alaska had been sold by Tsarist Russia to the United States in 1867. As far as we know, the first nationally conscious Ukrainian in America was Agapius Honcharenko, a native of the Kiev area, who served in the Russian embassy in Athens, Greece, where he became acquainted with the Russian revolutionaries and contributed frequently to the newspaper *Kolokol* published in London

by Alexander Herzen. Pursued by Russian spies, Honcharenko traveled much: he was in Turkey, Egypt, England, Mount Athos, where he was ordained a priest, and finally arrived in New York in 1865. The government of the United States, after the Alaska purchase, engaged Honcharenko to assist in establishing better contacts and relations with the local population. It was for this purpose that Honcharenko began publishing *The Alaska Herald* in 1868, in both English and Russian. The first issue of this newspaper, dated March 1, 1868, carried an article on "The Strange Ideas of Taras Shevchenko" which discussed the poems "The Caucasus," "The Epistle," and "My Thoughts." Very soon, however, Honcharenko parted with the American government as he stood up in defense of the local population against exploitation by American military forces. Honcharenko settled down on a farm near Hayward in Alameda County, California. It

was on this farm, which bore a huge sign "Ukraine" at the entrance gate, that Honcharenko died on May 3, 1916.

The first Ukrainian immigrant from Western Ukraine, according to the source cited above, was Ivan Makohon, a native of Zalisia in Galicia, who came to America sometime in the 1860's. However, large-scale Ukrainian immigration to America did not begin until 1887, when immigration agents started bringing Ukrainians and Slovaks in large numbers from Transcarpathia (at that time part of Hungary) to offset strikes in the coal mines of Pennsylvania. Later, the Lemkians started immigrating from Western Galicia, and it was not until the 1890's that Ukrainian immigrants from Eastern Galicia, Bukovina, and Eastern Ukraine began arriving in America.

Thus the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants to America consisted mainly of farmers from the Lemkian region and Transcarpathia. These were for the most part illiterate people, often even unaware of their national origin. They were ruthlessly exploited and abused. The only things that kept them together were their native language and religion, their native customs, their deep reverence for and great attachment to native traditions, and their boundless love of the native land for which they yearned constantly, even though they had to leave it because of abject poverty and extremely harsh economic conditions.

There was not one intellectual among these immigrants for a period of close to twenty years, and it was not until 1897 that the Lviv Metropolitan and, later, Cardinal Sylvester Sembratovych responded to their pleas and sent Rev. Ivan Voliansky to America, after the immigrants had collected enough money for his journey. Fr. Voliansky arrived in the United States in 1884, and on December 19, 1884 he celebrated the first Ukrainian Catholic Mass in America. This event took place in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, where a year later Rev. Voliansky succeeded in building the first Ukrainian Catholic church. Other priests who came from Galicia were: the Rev. Zenobius Liakhovych, who died the same year that he arrived (1887), the Rev. Constantine Andrukhovych, the Rev. Alexander Dzubay from Transcarpathia, and the Rev. Cyril Hulovych, OSBM; in 1890 the Rev. Gregory Hrushka arrived and settled in Jersey City, New Jersey. The first Ukrainian intellectual to arrive in America was Volodymyr Simenovych, who was brought here by Father Voliansky in 1887. He collaborated with Fr. Voliansky in publishing the newspaper *America*, which appeared for a short time, and organized and directed the first Ukrainian choir in Shenandoah. At about the same time the Rev. Nestor Dmytriv arrived in America.

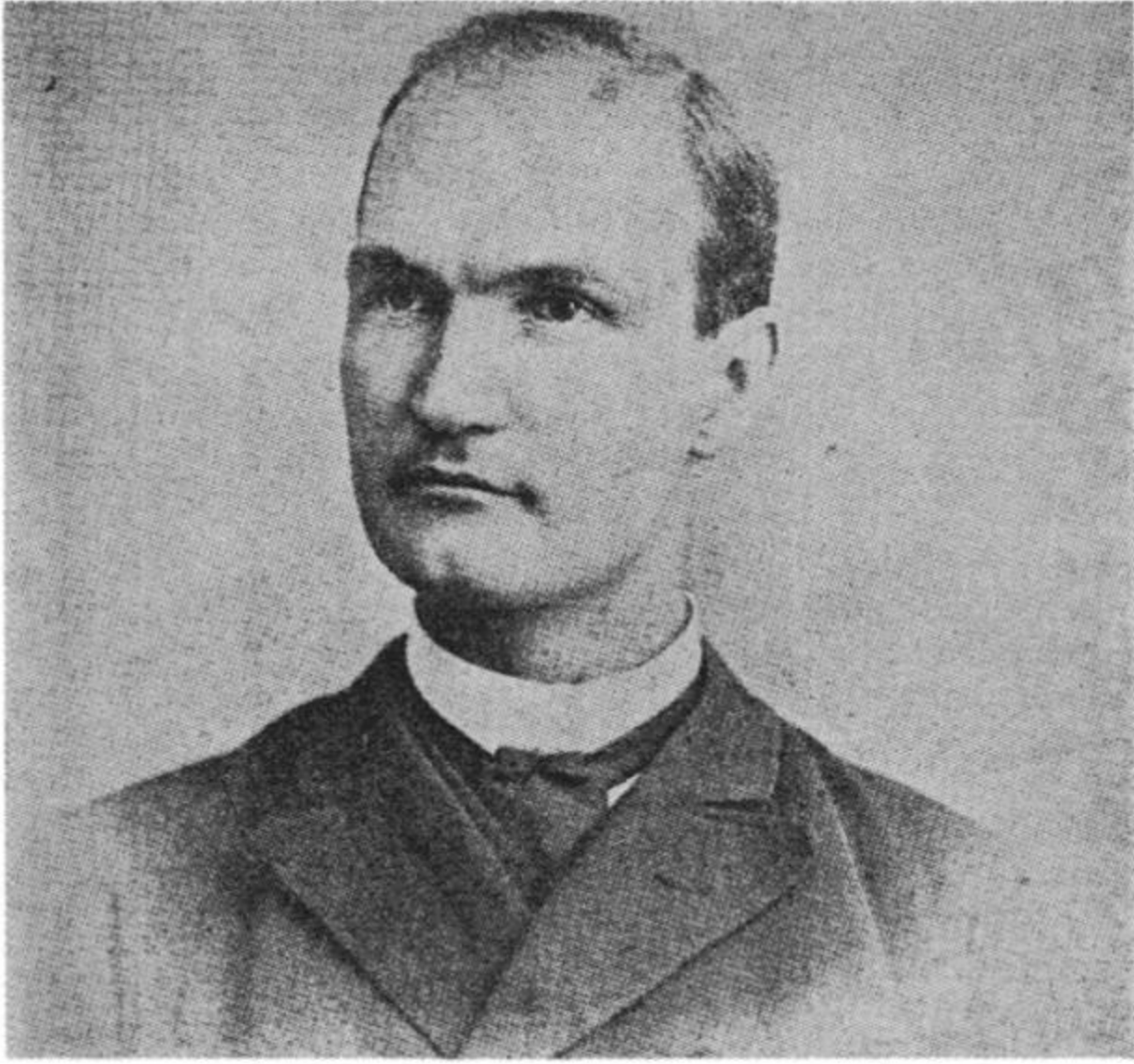
He was a true Nestor of the Ukrainian American chronicle, editing *Svoboda* with the Rev. Konstankevych after the newspaper had been transferred to Shamokin, Pennsylvania, in 1895.

There are no exact statistical data on the number of Ukrainians in America in the early 1890's. The statistical bureau of 1890 states that there were ten Ukrainian Catholic (Byzantine Rite) organizations in Pennsylvania, numbering 7,400 members. Other sources state that in 1889 there were close to 20,000 Ukrainians in this country, and according to Y. Bachynsky, 33,886 Ukrainian immigrants had arrived in the United States during the decade 1877-1887, while another 74,379 came to America during the subsequent ten years. It can be assumed that in 1895 there were already close to 300,000 Ukrainians in the United States.

It was at this time that the first issue of *Svoboda* made its appearance on September 15, 1893 in Jersey City, N. J., edited and published by the Rev. Gregory Hrushka, pastor of the local Ukrainian Catholic parish.

Earlier attempts at Ukrainian-language publications were short-lived and died out before they made any substantial progress. As early as 1887, the first Ukrainian priest in America, Father Voliansky, published several issues of *America* in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, after he had acquired a hand-operated printing machine and imported Cyrillic type from the Stavropyhian printing shop in Lviv, Ukraine. But after Father Voliansky's return to Galicia in 1889, *America* ceased to appear, although Father Andrukhovych used the equipment to publish several issues of *Ruskoie Slovo* (Ruthenian Word) which also appeared twice a month during the year 1891. In 1892 Father Hrushka published one issue of *Novyi Svit* (New World). One year later, on September 15, 1893, the first issue of *Svoboda* made its appearance. It was indeed a true beacon of light in the prevailing darkness of hopelessness and despair among Ukrainian immigrants in America.

The most revealing illustration of this hopelessness in both internal and external relations can be found in an article entitled "History of the Ukrainian Church in Shenandoah, Pa.," published in 1897 by *Svoboda* in the UNA financed *First Ruthenian (Ukrainian)-American Calendar*. This "history," signed only with the letter "K," states that from 1880 on, an increasing number of Ukrainian immigrants from Transcarpathia and Galicia began arriving in the United States, settling mainly in the coal basin of Pennsylvania, and particularly in the area around Shenandoah. Mostly illiterate and ignorant, they were exploited and even persecuted. But when



**First Ukrainian Catholic priest in America
Rev. Ivan Voliensky**

their number grew to 60-70 families, they started making plans, on the advice of one Charles Rice, a Catholic from Russia, for the establishment of their own Ukrainian Catholic parish, so that they would not have to pay collection to primarily Polish priests and "pay 15-20 dollars to them for baptisms, marriages, and funeral ceremonies." In 1882, again on the advice of Rice, they appealed to the Galician Metropolitan asking him to send a priest. The Metropolitan, the story tells us, announced a "contest" to determine which Ukrainian priest would be selected to go to America, and informed the Shenandoah community that a priest would soon come, providing enough money was raised by the petitioners to pay for his traveling expenses. The Shenandoah Ukrainians decided immediately "to hold a collection," designated a number of collectors, and sent them out to "all areas" to raise money for the trip of the first Ukrainian Catholic priest to America.

However, as soon as "the news spread" that such a priest would be arriving, an action was initiated against him, and "Polish priests declared privately and officially that this would never happen, that

Rome would never allow it, and that the U.S. government would not permit the entry of a Ukrainian Catholic priest, and a married one at that." Many of "our weaklings" believed these falsehoods and some people in Shamokin, Excelsior, Hazelton, and other "areas" refused to donate money, feeling that "nothing will come out of the whole thing."

Yet something did, for in 1884 Father Voliansky arrived in the United States. People cried from joy when he celebrated the first Ukrainian Catholic Mass in America on St. Nicholas Day in a rented hall on Shenandoah's Main Street.

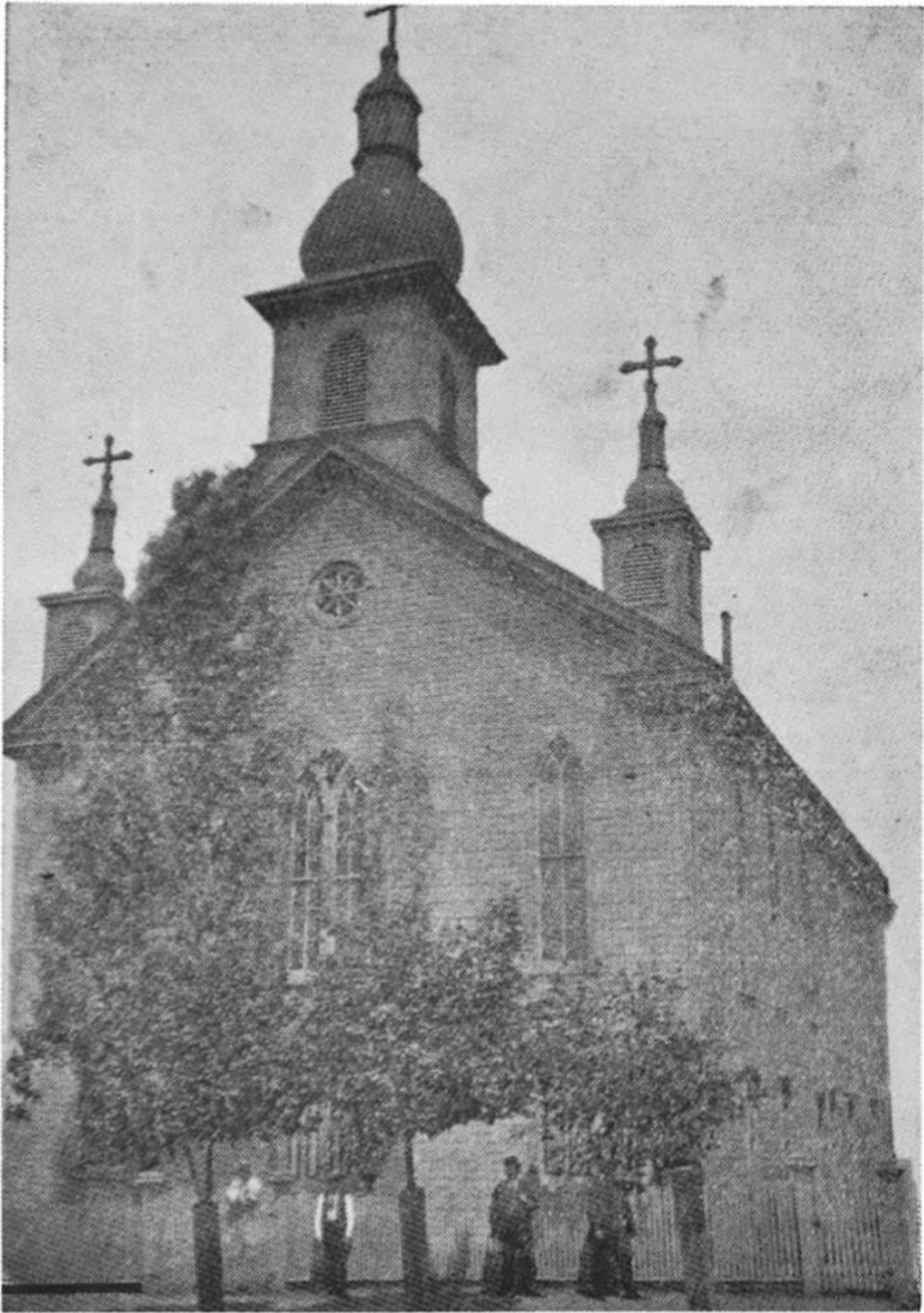
Immediately, the community became alive with activity and started organizing. A church-community council was formed, and plans were set in motion for the construction of a church. Each family was to contribute \$10.00, single persons \$5.00, and an additional monthly donation of \$1.00 was designated as a contribution to the church-building fund.

FIRST BROTHERHOOD, CHURCH, CEMETERY

The first Ukrainian Brotherhood of St. Nicholas, founded in Shenandoah on January 18, 1885, that is, several months after the arrival of Father Voliansky, became the organizational nucleus of the Ukrainian American community. Similar brotherhoods were soon established in other localities, e. g., the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood in Shamokin (1887) which formed the basis of the Ukrainian National Association. Later, the St. Nicholas Brotherhood left the "Soiedynenie" group and joined the UNA.

The St. Nicholas Brotherhood built the first Ukrainian Catholic church in America in Shenandoah, Pa. Construction was started in October, 1885 after the purchase of two lots for \$750. However, the original structure had to be taken down, because due to the contractor's negligence the roof of the church toppled and the whole project had to be started anew. But the church was finally completed, and the blessing and dedication ceremonies were held on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel in 1886, "with a mass of humanity in attendance."

The erection of the first Ukrainian church brought on even greater persecution against the Ukrainian community by the Polish priests and the Roman Catholic bishop. Those who had taken part in the blessing of the cornerstone were publicly condemned in Roman Catholic churches. When Father Voliansky reported to the Roman Catholic bishop and presented his credentials, the latter



The first Ukrainian Catholic Church in America, located in Shenandoah, Pa.

refused to recognize him as a priest and as a Catholic, and wrote to Rome requesting that Father Voliansky be immediately recalled "since the whole affair is a scandal." Of course, the bishop suspended Father Voliansky, instructed the Roman Catholic faithful to pray that God prevent the construction of the Ukrainian church, and, as a last resort, prohibited burials in cemeteries of all those who had attended and supported the Ukrainian church. And when one child had died and "had to be exposed on the catafalque for four days" because there was no place to bury it, the Shenandoah Ukrainians "became convinced that they needed a cemetery even more than a church." A lot was purchased immediately from the Protestants for \$200; Father Voliansky blessed it, and thus the first Ukrainian cemetery in America was opened. In the next few years the cemetery was filled as people brought the bodies from Wilkes-Barre, Olyphant, and even Jersey City to be buried there. A new and bigger lot was then acquired for \$800 and transformed into a cemetery.

THE PEOPLE AWAKEN

With the arrival of Father Voliansky and the subsequent establishment of the Brotherhood as well as the construction of the church and the acquisition of the cemetery, the Ukrainian community began to awaken and search for means of becoming self-sustaining and stronger. In its hopes and aspirations it looked to Father Voliansky who soon became a kind of national pastor of Ukrainian settlers in America. His advice, counsel, and services were sought not only by the neighboring communities but also by Ukrainian settlers in the distant cities of Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, who asked his help in the building of churches.

Recognizing the need of raising funds for this purpose, Father Voliansky brought in several business-minded persons from Galicia, "known as *panychi* among the people," and began organizing stores similar to those operated by the National Trade Association back home. At that time settlers had little confidence in banks and were glad to deposit their savings in churches under the supervision of the priest. But troubles with someone else's money are never hard to find. The Metropolitan of Lviv was flooded with complaints and accusations directed at Father Voliansky. But when the Metropolitan recalled Father Voliansky, mainly as a result of vicious protests by the Roman Catholic bishops, the immigrants delegated Volodymyr Simenovych to see the Metropolitan in person and ask

him to send more priests to America. The Metropolitan then sent Father C. Andrukhovych (after Father Liakhovych's death) as well as Father Hrushka who originally also stayed in Shenandoah. In the meantime, Father Andrukhovych came into conflict with his parishioners who again complained to the Metropolitan, accusing the pastor of failing to return the money deposited earlier by them in the church vault. The Metropolitan again dispatched Father Voliansky "to instill peace and order." Yet when the latter arrived at the church he was met by 12 policemen summoned by Father Andrukhovych, who barred him from entering, stating that earlier he had delegated all of his powers to Father Andrukhovych. The court proceedings lasted a full year and the church bore the brunt of the costs. Neither of the two sides gained anything, as the Metropolitan again recalled Father Voliansky and appointed Father Theofan Obushkevych who continued "the war" with Father Andrukhovych until the latter's return to Galicia in 1892.

Actually, it was Father Voliansky who played a decisive role in this early and difficult stage of organized life among Ukrainian immigrants. Born in 1857 in the village of Yabloniv, near Kopychyntsi, Western Ukraine, in the family of a priest, he remained in the United States until 1889, then after being recalled to Galicia, he returned in 1892. In 1896 he traveled to Brazil visiting Ukrainian communities there, and returned to Galicia. He served as a missionary in the Kholm area during Ukraine's war of liberation. Later, he was pastor of Dychkiv, Ternopil county, where he died in 1926.

This then is the general characteristic of the background prior to the establishment of the Ukrainian National Association.

"UKRAINE IS RESURRECTED IN AMERICA"

"It has come to be," — proclaimed *Svoboda* of March 1, 1894 in reference to the historic event, — the creation of the Ukrainian National Association in America on George Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1894.

The establishment of any organization among this initial dark mass of people and in the prevailing abject conditions seemed like an insurmountable task. Yet, as already stated above, Father Voliansky, the first Ukrainian Catholic priest in America, succeeded in founding the first St. Nicholas Brotherhood in Shenandoah, Pa., as early as January 18, 1885. Similar brotherhoods were soon organized in the neighboring towns of Olyphant, Mayfield, and

others, — all in Pennsylvanian where Ukrainian immigrant concentrations were largest.

In 1892, the so-called "Union of Greek-Catholic Russian Brotherhoods" was founded, which was joined by all of the above mentioned brotherhoods as well as the Ukrainian Catholic priests from Galicia, among them the Rev. Ivan Konstankevych who became a member of the Union's auditing committee. The Union was headed by the so-called Hungarian-Ruthenian priest John Smith, and Yuriy Zhatkowych. In his capacity as auditor Father Konstankevych found a number of excesses in the management of the Union's funds and voiced his criticism at the convention in Scranton, Pa., in 1893. He was bitterly assailed for this, as were all other "Galician Ruthenians."

Immediately after the convention, four Ukrainian Catholic priests — Father I. Konstankevych, Father T. Obushkevych, Father Ambrose Poliansky, and Father Hrushka — met at the latter's home in Jersey City and decided to establish a separate Ukrainian (at that time, still called "Ruthenian") National Association. It was after this meeting that the above cited article on the need of a national organization appeared in *Svoboda*, edited and published by Father Hrushka in Jersey City.

The draft of the future organization's by-laws was to be prepared by Father Poliansky, which he did, sending out copies to the three other "conspirators." It is particularly interesting to note that both Father Obushkevych and Father Poliansky insisted that the name "Russkyi" (double "s", meaning Russian) be used instead of "Ruskyi" (single "s", meaning Ruthenian), which, in their opinion, might attract Ukrainian members from among the hard core Russian oriented group. But Father Hrushka, in publishing the by-laws, deleted one "s" from the name since this spelling indicated that it was Ukrainian and not Russian.

The constituent meeting of the new Association was called together in Shamokin on February 22, 1894, George Washington's Birthday, honoring America's "Founding Father." The Sts. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, which in the meantime had left the Union and as a result became involved in a number of law suits, also called its meeting in Shamokin. Led by Father Konstankevych and V. Simenovych, the Ukrainian community of Shamokin was by far the strongest and most self-sustaining among all others.

The meeting went off as scheduled, and *Svoboda* of March 1, 1894, carried a lengthy and enthusiastic report under the banner-headline "It Has Come To Be." The report, preceded by an excerpt from Taras Shevchenko's poem, read as follows:

"On February 22, 1894, on the day when all America celebrates the birthday anniversary of the great George Washington, fearless fighter for liberty and the rights of man, Ukrainian (Ruthenian) priests, delegates of Ukrainian brotherhoods, and Ukrainian patriots from many areas assembled at 9 A. M. in the Ukrainian church in Shamokin, Pa., to ask God's help in launching this all-important project, — the founding of the Ukrainian National Association.

"The holy liturgy, in supplication of the Holy Spirit, was celebrated by the Rev. T. Obushkevych, Ukrainian priest from Olyphant; the responses were beautifully rendered by the Shamokin choir under the direction of Dr. Simenovych, tireless and dedicated leader of the Ukrainian American community. Many a tear was shed as the beautiful sound of singing filled the air and enraptured the soul. Who could have hoped only a few years ago that the Ukrainian, who escaped the bonds of slavery, want, and poverty would unleash so soon the long suppressed power of his spirit! Who would think that under this shabby coat there beats a noble heart, capable of everything that is good and beautiful, once it has been freed from the bonds of slavery and oppression!

And, oh wonder, the dead have risen
And opened their eyes!

"And in the land of the free, Ukrainian song soared in prayer to the Almighty God! In the festively decorated Ukrainian hall, Father Poliansky from Pittsburgh delivered the keynote address explaining the aims of the Ukrainian National Association and the benefits the Ukrainian people in America would derive from it.

"The elections of all UNA officers gave the following results: Theodosius Talpash of Shamokin, Pa., president; Michael Yevchak of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., vice-president; Rev. Ivan Konstankevych of Shamokin, Pa., secretary; Ivan Glova of Excelsior, Pa., treasurer.

"Advisors: Jacob Dankovsky of Jersey City, N. J., Michael Halkovych, Onufriy Murdza, Michael Adzyna, all of Mt. Carmel, Pa., Ivan Hordyshynsky, Oleksiy Shlianta, both of Mayfield, Pa., Semen Fedorovsky, Yurko Khyliak, both of Olyphant, Pa., Michael Oslytsky of Pittsburgh, Pa., Dmytro Zynoviak of Centralia, Pa.

"Auditing Committee: the Rev. Gabriel Hulovych of Freeland, Pa., Rev. Gregory Hrushka, editor of *Svoboda* and Jersey City pastor, Rev. Msgr. Alexander Tovt of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Rev. Theofan Obushkevych.

"The officers will remain in their respective posts until the next meeting, to be held in Shamokin, Pa., on May 30, 1894, at which time they will either be confirmed in their posts or new officers will be elected.

"In the course of the discussion on the problem of reading rooms that are to be established by each member society of the Ukrainian National Association, Father Tovt took it upon himself, in the spirit of true Ukrainian generosity, to purchase two thousand books of all kinds for these reading rooms, while Father Hrushka promised that he would send a free copy of *Svoboda* to each reading room in America. This is indeed worthy of commendation!

"Father Poliansky deserves special praise for the prudent and tactful manner in which he presided over the elections of UNA officers.

"The seal of the Ukrainian National Association will be as follows: an open book and a cross, above which two hands are firmly clasped in a brotherly handshake. An inscription in both English and Ukrainian will be placed around the emblem. The design of badges for UNA members will be dealt with at the next meeting.

"Each UNA member will receive a certificate and a copy of the by-laws.

"We now wish to inform all Ukrainians of America and all Ukrainian brotherhoods that those who wish to join the UNA should write immediately to the secretary of the Association and send the dues by money order to the treasurer: a 50-cent life-time initiation fee and a 50-cent monthly due. While writing to the secretary the sum of money sent in should be explicitly indicated in the letter. The by-laws will be published and explained in the subsequent issues of *Svoboda*.

"Dear brothers, now that a great number of us have gotten together and founded the Association, let us all join it. You must remember that this is for your own good and to your own advantage. You, who had been given up for lost by your brothers in Ukraine, let the world know that you are alive and that here, in America, the life of the Ukrainian community is throbbing with vigor and activity. The most important step forward has been taken. The Ukrainian National Association has been founded, and the Ukrainian people in America have risen from the dead . . ."

We have deliberately cited the full text of the "word" which actually did provide the main stimulus for the establishment of the Ukrainian National Association, and the enthusiastic report of the organization's constituent meeting. These reports clearly show the extent to which the Association became a vital force at a time of hopelessness and despair, the high and noble objectives that were adopted at the very outset, and the coming of what the *Svoboda* report called the true "awakening of Ukrainians in America" with its establishment.

IN A BITTER STRUGGLE

There was a marked change in both the nature and appearance of the Ukrainian community in America after the formation of the Ukrainian National Association. Indeed, the one-time slaves now became human beings. It was no easy matter at that time. With only a handful of conscientious and dedicated leaders, the Ukrainian community had to face a host of bitter enemies. Lack of organizational resources, know-how, and experience was felt painfully on all levels of activity. Appeal to patriotism, to national pride and consciousness, was practically meaningless. What was needed was an appeal to "common sense," phrased plainly and sometimes even crudely, but most of all, — hard work, tireless effort, and relentless struggle for every inch of ground on the road to progress.

In response to the challenges of the time, it was *Svoboda*, the organ of the newly established Association, which assumed the leadership in this struggle.

“There is much that we could achieve here in America, were it not for our bitter enemies and our own spiritual weakness,” wrote *Svoboda* in its Easter Holiday edition of April 27, 1894, adding that “although we are progressing very slowly in the attainment of our supreme objective, which is to unite, to bring to the fold those who are scattered high and wide, to enlighten the mass of our people, to acquaint them with the spirit of our time, and to awaken in them the feeling of national pride and consciousness, — we should not give up easily or lose hope in the ultimate success of our endeavors.” And therefore *Svoboda*, in calling on all who were weak in spirit, reminded them in their native Ukrainian of Longfellow’s “golden words” that “in this world of the battle, be a man not a cattle.”

This then was the manner in which the UNA and *Svoboda* tackled the problems at hand. These first issues of *Svoboda*, containing articles and reports on the efforts of the UNA, radiate with such enthusiasm, courage, tenacity, and determination that one cannot help but wish that they prevail at all times. The paraphrased “Ten National Commandments,” published in *Svoboda* of April 20, 1894, serve to illustrate the spirit that emanated from the newly established organization and its organ of publication:

I am *Svoboda* that wishes to lead Ukrainian Americans out of the darkness of ignorance and spiritual slavery.

1) You will not read any newspapers printed in Ukrainian but devoid of the Ukrainian spirit.

2) Do not call yourself a Ukrainian if you are indifferent to the Ukrainian cause in America.

3) Do not forget to become a member of the UNA and belong to a reading club, and make sure that you subscribe to *Svoboda*.

4) Honor, respect, and support sincere Ukrainians and you will lead a long and happy life in America.

5) Do not kill your body and spirit by leading a life of drunkenness and debauchery.

6) Do not engage in friendly relations with the Magyarophile clique, hostile to the Ukrainian national cause.

7) Do not seek to obtain *Svoboda* free of charge. First pay for it then read it.

8) Do not testify falsely against the UNA or *Svoboda*, but make sure you know where the truth lies.

9) Do not seek to become a traveling agent of the *Viestnik* (official organ of the “Union”) or you will suffer for it.

10) Do not seek the purse of the haughty Magyarophiles because it is empty; the people are wise and do not throw away "quarters"; neither seek their bigotry nor their fox-like shrewdness, — they belong to them.

One thing can not be overlooked: from the very beginning, the pioneering endeavors of the UNA found wholehearted support and sympathies of the workers. Each of the subsequent issues of *Svoboda* contains numerous letters from those who "work deep under the ground," shyly apologetic for the words poorly written but coming "from the heart." And indeed they did come from the heart.

This initial wave of enthusiasm and excitement shared by a relatively small number of UNA pioneers reached its climax at the second UNA meeting held on May 30, 1894 in Shamokin. It was at this meeting that the Ukrainian national anthem, "Shche ne Vmerla Ukraina" (Ukraine Has Not Perished), was heard for the first time anywhere in America, as it was sung jointly by the Ukrainian choirs of Olyphant and Shamokin at the conclusion of Father Hrushka's address. The editor of *Svoboda*, who spoke on the difficulties that had to be overcome in the realm of organizational activity, stated in conclusion that "with God's help and a determined effort of Ukrainian patriots this deed has now become a historic fact... The Ukrainian National Association, established on the firm foundations of brotherly love and patriotism, will grow and expand until it will have embraced all Ukrainian Americans."

From that point on, Ukrainian pioneer life in America centers around the UNA and for the UNA. It is a stubborn struggle against the evils of ignorance and apathy, against unprecedented internal and external hardships. There was hardly a segment of life that was not engulfed in this uphill struggle, ranging from the individual and his family to the community and its relationship to the adopted country, on the one hand, and the Ukrainian people in the native homeland, on the other. But the greatest emphasis was placed on education, enlightenment, and national consciousness, for it was in these areas that the deficiencies were felt most painfully.

The struggle for the Ukrainian community in the United States, waged by the Ukrainian National Association and *Svoboda* amid trying conditions, was similar in many ways to the early struggle of the American pioneers in the New World. This mighty saga had all the earmarks of the American "wild West," where laws had first to be established and then defended with human blood, where men died "with their boots on," and where a quick draw was the only guarantee of survival. Here, one could also find all of the

elements that characterized the great struggle for freedom and independence of the Ukrainian people in their native land, particularly the glorious period of the Zaporozhian Sich with its courageous stand against all oppression, with its defense of the weak and the persecuted, with its adventurism, zest, and carefree humor. The history of Ukrainian pioneers in America, vividly depicted in the emergence and development of the Ukrainian National Association, is not unlike a synthesis of the American "wild West" with the Ukrainian "wild steppe," which combined the most characteristic elements of both.

THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN

As we have already mentioned, the St. Nicholas Brotherhood, founded by Father Voliansky in Shenandoah, Pa., on January 18, 1885, was the first organizational nucleus of Ukrainians in America. In 1896, there were thirteen similar brotherhoods belonging to the Ukrainian National Association, not unlike the thirteen original states that comprised the Union. The thirteen member brotherhoods of the UNA were as follows:

1) St. Nicholas Brotherhood, founded on January 18, 1885 in Shenandoah.

2) Sts. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, founded in 1887 in Shamokin. This actually formed the nucleus of the UNA.

3) St. John the Baptist Brotherhood, founded on October 14, 1886 in Olyphant.

4) St. Demetrius Brotherhood, founded on September 13, 1891 in Mt. Carmel.

5) Sts. Peter and Paul Brotherhood, founded in 1894 also in Mt. Carmel.

6) St. Volodymyr Brotherhood, founded in McAdoo.

7) St. John the Baptist Brotherhood, founded in 1888 in Mayfield.

8) Sts. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, founded in April, 1894 also in Mayfield.

9) Sts. Peter and Paul Brotherhood, founded in March, 1889 in Jersey City.

10) St. Nicholas Brotherhood, founded in 1895 in St. Clair, Pa.

11) St. Nicholas Brotherhood, founded in 1894 in Centralia, Pa.

12) St. Michael the Archangel Brotherhood founded in Elmira, N. Y.

13) St. Nicholas Brotherhood, founded in Pittsburgh, Pa.

In addition to these brotherhoods, the UNA had many individual members in 1896 from numerous localities including Chicago, Minneapolis, and St. Louis.

At that time the "Union," also considered "Ruthenian," had 94 brotherhoods and a total membership of 4,000. The UNA had only 587 members. Neither of the two organizations wrote much about the money matters as neither had any substantial amount to speak of. The majority of brotherhoods which in 1896 were still part of the "Union" eventually joined the UNA, in spite of many obstacles including law suits.

The organizational structure and activity of the brotherhoods is discussed in the already quoted *First Ruthenian-American Calendar* of 1897:

"The Ruthenian Brotherhood in America constitutes a government sanctioned institution whose objectives are to defend the faith and nationality of its members, to assist them in case of illness or injury, and to take care of funeral arrangements upon the death of one of its members. Some Brotherhoods provide money for the widow and the children. Each Brotherhood has its own flag, as well as the American flag, which makes it possible for them to participate in all American parades. Each member has a cap with an emblem, usually a cross, and a sash or a badge on the chest. Some Brotherhoods have complete uniforms . . ."

FIRST GUARDIAN OF UKRAINIAN DIASPORA

United States was not the only country to which Ukrainians immigrated. In the second half of the nineteenth century, many Ukrainian families settled in Canada and in Brazil. Some even got as far as Hawaii. To be sure, the life of the Ukrainian settler in the United States was bad. But the hardships, exploitation, and persecution were even more intense in Canada and particularly in Brazil, not to speak of Hawaii where the Ukrainian immigrants were virtually treated like slaves. Their plight was so much more painful that they could not even dream of any protection: they were totally and completely forsaken. Yet when the Ukrainian National Association came into being in the United States, proclaiming one of its primary objectives to be that of "uniting all Ukrainians wherever they may be," and since this organization had a press organ (*Svoboda*) at its disposal from the very beginning, it was only natural that it soon became the guardian of all Ukrainian settlers this side of the Atlantic Ocean. And the com-



Ukrainian miner on his way to work and returning home after a long day in the shafts (Photos taken from the "First Ruthenian-American Calendar," 1897)

piled issues of *Svoboda* from the two decades at the turn of the century are there to confirm it.

First, Father Voliansky visited the Ukrainian settlers in Brazil in 1896. It was there, in Rio de Janeiro, that his wife died of yellow fever. Father Voliansky wasted no time in reporting on the plight of Ukrainians in Brazil in *Svoboda* (No. 12, 1897) which soon published a special appeal to "our brothers in Brazil" stating that "free issues of *Svoboda* will be sent to all known addresses of Ukrainians in Brazil because it is our desire that they do not forget their language and their faith, that they read Ukrainian books and newspapers, that they attend Ukrainian churches, and that they teach their children the Ukrainian language." For a long period afterwards *Svoboda* carried a column "News from Brazil" which depicted the immense tragedy of Ukrainian settlers in that country. *Svoboda* informed, taught, and cautioned these Ukrainian settlers as well as others who intended to emigrate there. She helped them start a new life, build homes in the jungles of Brazil, and preserve their Ukrainian heritage in an alien and often hostile environment.

At the same time the UNA extended its protective activity over the rapidly increasing community of Ukrainian settlers in



Rev. Nestor Dmytriv
second Supreme Secretary of the
UNA, second Editor-in-Chief of
"Svoboda."

Canada. The minutes of the 4th UNA Convention held in Mayfield, Pa., in 1897, contain a resolution authorizing the Rev. Nestor Dmytriv, one of the leading UNA figures, to travel to Canada and "examine the living conditions of our Ukrainian settlers" in that country. Thus Father Dmytriv was the first Ukrainian priest to have visited Canada in 1897 and shared his observations with the *Svoboda* readers in a series of reports on the horribly abject conditions of Ukrainian settlers. The reports were later published in a book titled *Canadian Ruthenia*. From that time on the UNA became increasingly interested in the life of Ukrainian Canadians and gradually extended its protection over them. It is not surprising that today the UNA constitutes an Amer-

ican Canadian Ukrainian organization in practically every respect.

A year later, on February 10, 1898 to be exact, *Svoboda* brought the first news about Ukrainian settlers in Honolulu, Hawaii. Father Dmytriv reported that for a year 34 Ukrainian families originally from the Borshchiv area in Western Ukraine, had been living there as indentured laborers under the most despicable conditions. Employed under rigid contracts they were being treated like slaves and exploited in the most cruel manner. Meanwhile, departure of workers on contracts from Galicia to Hawaii continued, and by the end of the nineteenth century their number had increased to 350, according to *Svoboda*. UNA's efforts were not confined to mere reporting on their plight in its organ. Practical steps were taken immediately. Relief was sought through the intervention of the Austrian consulate. In addition, *Svoboda* printed a separate form which was to be filled out by each Ukrainian worker in Hawaii and returned to *Svoboda*. Information thus obtained was to be used in seeking intervention of American congressmen and senators as well as the League for Social Service, an organization designed to combat social ills and poverty.

Occasional news reports appeared in *Svoboda* at that time about Ukrainians who served in the American Armed Forces in the Philippines.

Thus, the Ukrainian National Association, aided by *Svoboda*, became the first guardian-protector of all Ukrainians in diaspora, — a noble mission which it has faithfully performed throughout its entire history.

UNA CONVENTIONS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The Ukrainian National Association was established by the convention of February 22, 1893, and the course of the organization's further development was charted by subsequent conventions, since they are the supreme legislative authority in the UNA. They best reflect the efforts and the progress of the UNA. We shall conclude this description of the separate stages of development by reviewing briefly all conventions held in this period. It may also be worthwhile to explain the significance of these conventions — "the largest Ukrainian parliaments in the free world" — for the UNA and the Ukrainian community at large. This brief description, covering conventions 1-18 inclusive, is taken from an article by Nicholas Murashko published in the *UNA Commemorative Book* in 1934.

In the first place it should be stated that the conventions helped the delegates become forthright, responsible, and honest leaders; they helped them acquire greater understanding of organizational affairs, apply it in the field, and impart it to the members in their communities. It was through conventions that the Ukrainian people became more familiar with political issues of the day, with Ukraine's struggle for freedom and independence, and the role of the Ukrainian American immigrant in that struggle. In addition to matters of administrative character and UNA's insurance plans the delegates dealt with national, religious, educational, and labor problems as well. All these concerns, along with interest in life protection, added strength and dynamism to the UNA, at times overpowering, the likes of which no other benefit society has been able to generate.

To be sure, the UNA conventions, like all other similar conclaves, occasionally came up with erroneous decisions which were not in the best interest to the organization. But they were never the result of the delegates' ill-motivated intent, but rather lack of knowledge and experience in important organizational matters that were unclear and incomprehensible to the delegates.



Theodosius Talpash
first Supreme President
of the UNA



Ivan Glova
second Supreme President
and first Treasurer of the
UNA

The UNA conventions had many other shortcomings, yet they were more than offset by the organizing pioneers, by their courage, determination, and dedication to the cause of the UNA.

There was much interest and concern over the life of Ukrainian Americans at each of the UNA conventions. Opinions voiced by the delegates in matters of national interest had often far-reaching results in the life of all Ukrainian immigrants.

From the time of its establishment until the end of the nineteenth century, five UNA conventions were held in addition to the constituent meeting.

The First Regular Convention was held in Shamokin, Pa., on May 30, 1984, three months after the establishment of the Association. It was presided over by the Rev. T. Obushkevych, while Dr. V. Simenovych and Denys Pynch served as secretaries.

It was decided that UNA's death benefit payment was to be \$400 upon the member's death and \$200 upon his wife's death, for monthly dues of 50 cents. This resolution was adopted without any consultation with an insurance actuary, and consequently the liabilities were totally out of proportion with the UNA assets which at that time totaled \$220.35. Needless to say that the adoption of this resolution was quite risky, endangering the existence of the UNA.

The convention resolved unanimously that *Svoboda* become the official organ of the UNA even though it was not owned by the UNA.

Elected to the Supreme Assembly were the following persons: Theodosius Talpash, President; Michael Yevchak, Vice-President,



UNA SUPREME ASSEMBLY elected at the Third Convention in Mt. Carmel in 1896: seated left to right, Y. Khyliak, treasurer, I. Glova, president, Fr. I. Konstankevych, advisor; standing, left to right: Fr. I. Ardan, advisor, Fr. N. Stefanovych, advisor, and Fr. N. Dmytriv, secretary.

the Rev. Ivan Konstankevych, Secretary; Ivan Glova, Treasurer; Auditing Committee; Frs. H. Hulovych, T. Obushkevych, O. Tovt, G. Hrushka; G. Huk, alternate; Advisors: Andrew Pyvovarnyk, Yuriy Khyliak, Jacob Dankovsky, Theodore Khomiak, Oleksiy Halaburda, V. Simenovych; Alternates O. Kuryla, M. Adzyna, P. Shymansky, S. Dranko, K. Koban.

At the Supreme Assembly's mid-year meeting on January 15, 1895 in Shamokin it was announced that UNA's income in 1894 was \$1,142.75 and the disbursements \$1,007.22. Total membership was 505, of which 66 had been suspended for non-payment of dues.

The reports of the supreme officers indicated that the first year had been extremely difficult since the UNA was short on workers. The only two employees of the UNA (until the second convention) were Fr. Hrushka, editor of *Svoboda*, and Fr. Konstankevych, supreme secretary.

The Second Convention was held in Olyphant, Pa., on May 30, 1895. It was presided over by the Rev. A. Poliansky, with the Rev. N. Dmytriv serving as secretary.

The total assets of the UNA were \$605.60. At the end of 1894 there were 439 members in the UNA, and the assets were slightly more than the amount of one death benefit payment.

Elected to the Supreme Assembly were: Ivan Glova, President; Theodosius Talpash, Vice-President; the Rev. N. Dmytriv, Secretary; Yuriy Khyliak, Treasurer; Auditing Committee: the Rev. K. Hulovych, G. Huk, M. Danchak, the Rev. V. Martiak, alternate; Advisors: the Rev. T. Obushkevych, A. Shlianta, K. Koban, S. Fedorovsky, F. Murdza, A. Marko; Alternates Frs. I. Konstankevych, A. Poliansky, V. Molchanyn, and J. Gambal.

At the Supreme Assembly's mid-year meeting, held in Mt. Carmel, Pa., on January 1, 1896, it was decided to raise UNA's death benefit payment from \$400 to \$500.

The Third Convention took place in Mt. Carmel, Pa., on January 2, 1896. Fr. Obushkevych presided over the convention while Fr. I. Ardan and Dmytro Kapitula served as secretaries.

The reports showed that in the first two years 6 members had died and that the UNA paid out \$2,300 in death benefits. Thus the mortality rate in the UNA, — which at that time numbered over 500 members, — was 12 members per one thousand. The average age of UNA members was 35. According to life insurance tables, the mortality rate for 35-year-olds was 10 per one thousand. It follows that the monthly membership due for a \$500 life insurance policy in the UNA should have been \$1.00 instead of 50 cents.

The minutes of the third convention show clearly that the delegates, seriously considering UNA's future, decided to set a minimum and maximum age limit for UNA members, 16 and 45, thus decreasing the Association's potential mortality rate. It was also decided that no death benefits would be paid for wives of members over 45 years of age.

An Indigent Fund was to be established by deducting 10 cents from the monthly membership dues. The UNA was to finance the publication of a calendar for the year 1897.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Ivan Glova, President; Oleksiy Kuryla, Vice-President, the Rev. Nicholas Stefanovych, Secretary; Yuriy Khyliak, Treasurer; Auditing Committee: the Rev. N. Dmytriv, Oleksiy Shlianta, Constantine Koban; Moses Demchko, alternate; Advisors: the Rev. T. Obushkevych, the Rev. I. Konstankevych, the Rev. I. Ardan, T. Talpash, Vasyl

Krynytsky, Dmytro Kapitula; Alternates Gregory Huk, Joseph Koval, Theodore Khyliak, Jacob Kudanych, Ivan Dunay.

The Fourth Convention was held in Mayfield, Pa., on June 8, 1897. It was presided over by Fr. Obushkevych; D. Pyrch and D. Vanko acted as secretaries.

The reports showed that the UNA had grown in both assets and membership. The total number of members was 1,019 and the assets amounted to \$2,944.93.

It was decided that members would pay additional dues of 25 cents annually to cover the traveling expenses of the convention delegates. Every twenty members of the UNA would be entitled to one delegate.

It was also decided that only Ukrainians could become members of the UNA. With regard to other nationalities it was resolved that such persons can become members of the UNA only if they belong to brotherhoods and are willing to join the UNA as a group.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Ivan Glova, President; Peter Sekeran, Vice-President; the Rev. I. Ardan, Secretary; Yuriy Khyliak, Treasurer; Auditing Committee: the Rev. Stephen Makar, Y. Krynytsky, Kindrat Kotanchyk; Advisors: the Rev. T. Obushkevych, Moses Demchko, Joseph Koval, Oleksiy Shlianta, Denys Pyrch, Daniel Pavlyshak; Alternates: Michael Kopchak, Anthony Onushchak, Gabriel Dziadyk, Theodore Maikshak.

The Fifth Convention was held in Shenandoah, Pa., on June 7 and 8, 1898. It was attended by 24 delegates. Fr. Obushkevych presided over the convention, and Fr. Bonchevsky, D. Pyrch, and D. Kapitula served as secretaries.

The reports showed that 574 new members joined the UNA in one year bringing the total membership to 1,593 and the assets to \$5,688.57.

It was decided that members' children, one year old and over, could become members of the UNA.

Death benefits were raised from \$500 to \$600. Those members who could not afford to pay the 50-cent monthly dues could retain their membership by paying 25 cents, but they would be entitled to only \$300 death benefit payment.

It was resolved that in case of accidental death at the place of employment all members would be entitled to benefit payments immediately upon joining the UNA. In case of natural death, the member would become eligible only after 90 days of uninterrupted membership in the UNA. This resolution concerned members who joined the UNA individually. Per-

sons who were members of brotherhoods which belonged to the UNA were entitled to benefits after 30 days.

It was also decided that UNA supreme officers would have to be bonded, that conventions would be held every two years, and that the Supreme Assembly would meet once a year.

Elections gave the following results: Yuriy Khyliak, President; Ivan Dobosh, Vice-President; the Rev. Anthony Bonchevsky, Secretary, Denys Pynch, Deputy Secretary; Kindrat Kotanchyk, Treasurer; Auditing Committee: the Rev. I. Ardan, Constantine Kyrchiv, Osyp Koval; Advisors: Anthony Kania, Oleksiy Shlianta, Anthony Onushchak, Theodore Vakha, Semen Rusyn, the Rev. Stephen Markar; Alternates: I. Glova, Tymko Havran, Gregory Poliansky, Ivan Sydoriak, the Rev. M. Pidhoretsky.

II. AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

1900-1910

COMPLETION OF THE FORMATIVE STAGE

With the beginning of the twentieth century the Ukrainian National Association and for that matter, the entire Ukrainian American community entered the second and more distinctly crystallized stage of its development. In this as in the previous stage, the social element played as important a part as the national. This is evident from the report on the "First Ukrainian American Meeting" (*Svoboda*, January 18, 1900), held in Jersey City on January 1, 1900. It was attended by a "huge mass of people" from Jersey City, New York, Yonkers, Woodberry, Ansonia, Shamokin, Staten Island, and other localities. What was the theme of this first Ukrainian meeting in America? The Rev. A. Bonchevsky of Ansonia "described the life of our people in the Old Country, told why they were emigrating to other lands, and showed how little we have succeeded in adjusting to American life." The speaker "noted that our people continued to live the life of farmers, and finally called on all Ukrainians to unite in labor organizations, both political and economic." He was followed by the Rev. Stefanovych of Pittsburgh, who "pointed out the reasons why Ukrainians were not respected by other nationalities in America; the main reason was that they were ashamed to admit their Ukrainian nationality and registered as Poles, Slovaks, Hungarians, Russians, and even Greeks." This fact was confirmed by the Rev. Pidhoretsky "who spoke at length on the need of care and assistance to immigrants who live under oppression and forget even their own national origin." Consequently, "nobody respects us, nobody knows us, they register us as they please, they have even made some sort of a new Greek-Catholic nationality of us . . . let Taras Bulba, who killed his own son for rejecting his nationality, be an example to all of us!"

"Songs and recitations" were also presented as was the "magic lamp" by the Rev. I. Ardan, showing "Ukrainian pictures" from which the people "learned more than at any time back home." Many telegrams were received from Plymouth, Troy, Shamokin, and other

localities. "We bow our heads to you, defenders of the Ukrainian people in America, Canada, Brazil, and Hawaii! Death to the traitors! God bless those who are with us—our cause is sacred!"

At the turn of the centuries the UNA had already acquired a definitive posture — as can be seen from its organ *Svoboda* — which included the entire Ukrainian American community. From its earliest beginnings, the work of the UNA proceeded in the following directions:

1. Organization of all Ukrainian immigrants, with UNA providing leadership and representation. UNA's growth in membership and assets during the six years from 1894 to 1900, given elsewhere in this book, serves as the best illustration of the organizational efforts.

2. The educational and cultural work of the UNA was at least as important as the organizational. This is evident from the first "platform" of the UNA published in *Svoboda* immediately before it came into existence. This was a real struggle for the mind and the soul of the Ukrainian immigrant. High on the list of priorities of the first UNA constitution and by-laws was the provision that each branch (at that time brotherhood) was obliged to maintain a reading club. Each UNA member received *Svoboda* which played a decisive part in the education of Ukrainian immigrants in America. In more recent times *Svoboda* published letters from some of its oldest readers who referred to the paper unabashedly as their "leader," "teacher," and "everything." Those who were not familiar with the early conditions of Ukrainian pioneer life in America could not fathom the real meaning of these words and thought that *Svoboda* was merely praising itself. These words, however, were but an echo of what was actually happening at that time. *Svoboda* was a real "trumpet of Jericho," the true conscience of all Ukrainians in America, the shining beacon of light in the prevailing darkness of ignorance and despair. Of course, UNA's educational work was not limited to *Svoboda* alone. It was the nucleus of a program which included books, pamphlets, courses, schools, and, most of all, the pulpit and the Church itself. In Ukraine it was still the time of "the peasant and the priest." In America it was not much different. The UNA was established by priests and it constituted a kind of "laymen's church" for the mass of immigrants. UNA brotherhoods were attached to local churches, and among their primary objectives was the support of churches and local community centers.

3. Social care and consciousness. Except for a few priests and intellectuals who could be counted on the fingers of one hand, the

Ukrainian immigrants were mostly "farmers transformed into workers." And they remained "farmers" even if they did change their occupations. At the same time, they remained "permanet immigrants." The very first appeal of the UNA to the Ukrainian immigrants stressed the need for "taking out first papers" and becoming citizens of this country so as to improve their lot. At the first general meeting in Jersey City on January 1, 1900, a definite proposal was made urging UNA brotherhoods to function also as a kind of "Ukrainian labor unions" and care for the workers. Thus social movement and cultivation of social consciousness were as high on the list of UNA objectives as the preservation of national consciousness.

4. Struggle for human dignity. The newspaper, the pulpit, the rally, and the meeting — all of them served to awaken the feeling of human dignity among the downtrodden and oppressed immigrants. It was the only way to transform this dark mass of people into a nationally and socially conscious community. In this respect the struggle against alcoholism and licentiousness was of paramount importance.

It can be stated on the basis of documents and varied source material that by the end of the nineteenth century, that is, during the formative stage of its development, the UNA had succeeded in making substantial strides toward the attainment of the above listed goals. It would take a great master of the art of writing to convey even in general terms this comparatively brief yet bright era of Ukrainian pioneer life in America under the leadership of the UNA and a handful of "radical priests" and lay intellectuals who had created and fostered it.

WITH EYES TOWARD UKRAINE

The second stage in the development of the UNA and the entire Ukrainian American community marked the ideological and spiritual coming of age of that community at a time when the Ukrainian nation was engaged in the struggle for freedom and political independence. An appeal published in *Svoboda* on October 18, 1900, entitled "To Action, Brothers!," serves to illustrate the point. It reads as follows:

"As everyone knows, the life of our people in the old country is extremely difficult in every respect. In the three states in which they live, the Ukrainian people are oppressed as much by the governments as by their 'good neighbors.' Our leaders are doing everything in their power to improve the lot of the Ukrainian people, but at last they have arrived at the

conclusion that half-hearted means will bring no results and that the only possible way out of their misery is for the Ukrainian people *to unite into one sovereign, independent state with a democratic system of government*. This idea has been gradually gaining support among the Ukrainian people and recently some of the most prominent leaders of the Ukrainian youth (500 persons), assembled in Lviv, not only endorsed this idea wholeheartedly but adopted it as the guiding principle and supreme objective of their life. What is our reaction to this as Ukrainian Americans? Are we to remain indifferent? The answer is no! As part of the great Ukrainian people we must also do our share in attaining this great objective, for even though we now live in a free land we must not forget the Mother who fed us, nor the brothers who now live in slavery.

"We propose to establish a national fund in America which would serve to support our people's struggle for independence. Such funds have already been established by the Slovaks, the Poles, and other nationalities. The Poles, for example, have amassed hundreds of thousands of dollars in their fund,—yet we Ukrainians have not able to do anything in this respect. To be sure, there have been instances of enthusiastic response and some money has indeed been sent to the old country in support of various community projects. But this is not enough. This action must be continuous, money must be constantly collected, and the idea of a national fund must be propagated at all times. Small collection boxes could be placed in our national homes, stores, hotels, and even churches. In addition, the Ukrainian National Association should also foster this idea and each member should contribute at least a penny a month to this cause. The Slovene and the Polish organizations are doing just that. The UNA Supreme Assembly should submit this proposal to a vote by all members; and there is little doubt that they will approve it.

"Brothers! there's more than 200,000 of us now in America, and if only one tenth of us, — or 20,000 persons, — contributed one cent a month, we would collect \$200 a month or \$2,400 a year. Just think, how much good could be done with that money! Get to work, brothers, wake up and realize that we are not worse than others, nor are we few in numbers: there are more than 30 million of us, which is almost half of the entire population of the United States. We can, we should, we must have an independent Ukrainian state, where neither the German nor the Russian nor the Pole nor the Hungarian, but the Ukrainian will be master in his own home. And once we have built a free Ukrainian state we won't have to wander about the world like homeless orphans. We shall return to our own Ukrainian country, to our Ukrainian home, for only in one's own home there is truth and strength and freedom! To action brothers!"

This then was the organizational, social, and political image of the Ukrainian National Association at the turn of the century. The problems and proposals of that period are as relevant today as they were then.

Thus from the beginning of the twentieth century, the development of the Ukrainian National Association was a conscious and sustained drive toward the attainment of a clearly defined goal.

Reflecting a similar struggle of the Ukrainian people in their native homeland, this drive proceeded in stages and it also had its ups and downs. But the great ideal of Ukrainian national revival, pursued by the UNA, was always victorious. It healed the wounds of defeat and inspired new and greater victories.

This new course of development was preceded by what might be called a decisive battle for the Ukrainian character of the UNA. It took place at the seventh convention in Jersey City in 1902. It was here that the final showdown took place with Magyarophiles and Russophiles who opposed this new course of development. One week before the convention *Svoboda* (June 12, 1902) warned that "it has been reported that many Russophiles plan to attend the convention and try to grab the control of the UNA or break it up if they fail to succeed." *Svoboda* expressed hope that "honest delegates will not allow this to happen" and show that "there is no room for traitors in the UNA."

And this is exactly what happened. The showdown started at the very outset of the convention in connection with the presence of V. Hladyk, editor of the Russophile *Pravda*, which spread untruthful information about the UNA in an effort to undermine its prestige. The delegates decided to throw Hladyk out of the convention, and passed a resolution calling for the exclusion of every member whose actions were detrimental to the Ukrainian community in the United States. In the course of the convention the delegates divided into two camps, the national and the Russophile. The Russophiles demanded that the UNA be called "Russian" in English, that *Svoboda* be printed in Church Slavonic, and that the UNA break with "radicals, socialists, and anarchists." Typical of the Russophiles' demands were some of the statements and greetings made at the convention: "Hold counsel for the good of the Russian people, not the radical priests who abandoned their fathers' faith and nationality, nor for their stupid Ukraine..." or "Hold counsel for the good and the glory of Russian American workers! Down with Ukrainians, 'phoneticists', and social-radicals..."

This was the first UNA convention which witnessed such a sharp showdown between the two camps of members. The Russophiles lost and thus ended the period of compromises and "co-existence" with the enemies of the Ukrainian course of development. The convention adopted a distinctly pro-Ukrainian orientation, thus laying the groundwork for a new course in the development of the UNA, although the struggle for that course was by no means over.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNA

The tenth convention of the UNA, which took place in Shamokin from May 30 to June 2, 1904, marked the tenth jubilee anniversary of the organization. The jubilee program of festivities included a march through the city and a concert. For purposes of comparison with present-day events staged by Ukrainian Americans, it would be worthwhile to cite part of the report describing the jubilee celebrations as it appeared in *Svoboda* of June 9, 1904. The march was described as follows:

"Ten years have elapsed since the small brotherhoods in Shamokin and Mt. Carmel founded the Ukrainian National Association. Just as a small child, nursed by the parents, grows stronger in body and in mind, so the Ukrainian National Association, nursed by sincere patriots, has grown and acquired strength. We saw the strength of the UNA and of all Ukrainians in the march during the convention in Shamokin. Everybody who witnessed this parade could not help but be proud of being Ukrainian . . . As early as 8 A.M. on May 30, Ukrainian brotherhoods began to assemble at the local church, and at 8:30 A.M. they joined the American societies in what was a truly magnificent march. The city police led the parade, followed by the firemen's police. Then came the Spanish War Veterans with rifles on their shoulders. They were led by their officer who rode a horse, followed by the flag-bearer and an orchestra . . . Then marched five units of firemen, all in red shirts, carrying flowers . . . Between units, horses pulled the fire engines, also adorned with flowers. They were followed by a group of Indians, representing the first inhabitants of America. Each of them carried an open umbrella. They were led by Chief White Eagle. Riding a white pony, he was clad in white clothes with wings attached to his shoulders and a feather cap on his head. And then came the Ukrainians. First, the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood which founded the UNA. It was led by Mr. Talpash, mounted on a beautiful horse, looking like a Kozak of the Zaporozhian Sich. He was followed by the bearers of the new UNA banner and two American flags. The Taras Shevchenko Brotherhood marched second, led by Mr. Kolodiy, on a horse, followed by a flag-bearer. Then came the Sts. Peter and Paul Brotherhood with church banners and an orchestra, then St. Demetrius and St. Michael Brotherhoods. All these brotherhoods were from Shamokin. They were followed by three brotherhoods from Mt. Carmel, with banners and an orchestra. Then came the delegates, being driven in carriages. Closing out the parade were the Civil War veterans, carrying sticks, and their sons with rifles. Altogether over 6,000 people marched in the parade, accompanied by five orchestras. The weather was beautiful, and for the first time the Ukrainian people showed their strength and unity to the world . . . After the parade all brotherhoods attended the Holy Liturgy in the local church. Here, the new banner of the UNA was blessed with all of the delegates acting as god-fathers. Fr. Strutynsky delivered a beautiful sermon calling for unity, cooperation, brotherly love, and hard work for the good of Ukraine-Rus. . ."

Highlighting the first UNA jubilee festivities was a concert which concluded the convention. An observer described it in *Svoboda* as follows:

"The jubilee concert was held after the convention on Thursday night, June 2, at the largest auditorium of the local theatre. Many Americans, wishing to hear our songs, also came to the concert. Dr. Ardan delivered a speech in English stating that it was poverty and oppression that forced the freedom-loving Ukrainian people to leave their native land and come to America. While working hard, our people acquire knowledge and develop their natural talents in freedom which is the law of the land. Since only the poorest emigrate to the United States, Americans, having no previous knowledge of Ukrainian history and culture, tend to judge all Ukrainians on the basis of their impressions of the immigrants. But such a judgement is unfair. Ukrainians are a great nation of over 30 million people with a long history and rich culture. To give Americans an idea of at least one aspect of the Ukrainian people's spiritual wealth, the members of the UNA are staging this concert on the occasion of the organization's tenth anniversary... Afterwards, the choir under the direction of Fr. Stefanovych and Mr. Stetkevych sang various songs. The choirs consisted of 70 singers. The children's chorus gave a beautiful rendition of "The Prayer." In their tender voices the little children pray to God that He may save their *Rus-Ukraine*. Tears came to everyone's eyes listening to these little children who never saw their native land and yet yearn so much for it. Another fine song, "The Street" by F. Kolessa, was rendered by the mixed choir. Everyone who heard that song recalled his native country; the heart beat faster and thoughts went back to the little village, to the street where under the willow trees on a beautiful May evening boys and girls sing together and enjoy themselves... Lysenko's "Dnieper," featuring a baritone solo by Panasevych, was also sung beautifully as were Nyzhankivsky's "New Sich," Lysenko's "I'll Let the Horse Run Loose," Vakhnianyn's "On to the Battle," Kopko's "My Land — My Paradise;" piano solo and recitations as well as Shevchenko's "Testament" were rendered beautifully. At the conclusion the choir sang the Ukrainian National Anthem and "My Country" while all present rose from their seats... Everybody liked our songs, particularly the Americans, who must have been admiring the people who have such wonderful songs and who love their country so much. A party was held after the concert with many American guests attending. They praised Ukrainians as honest and extremely patriotic people, and said that if all Ukrainians in America are like those in the UNA, then the day is not far away when a Ukrainian will become President of the United States..."

The American press, perhaps for the first time, referred to Ukrainians as a distinct people, strong and proud in their own right. Among the excerpts cited in *Svoboda* was one which read as follows:

"The freedom-loving Ukrainians concluded yesterday a convention of their National Association with a concert at the opera hall. There was

a large audience on hand. It was thrilled by Ukrainian music. For many, Ukrainian music was a revelation.

"In depth of emotion it surpasses the music of many other peoples, and contains a kind of sadness and yearning that reflect the nature of this freedom-loving people, who have fought for so long to gain freedom. Many of them have come to America to enjoy our freedom and to become the best citizens of our country."

These brief descriptions attest to the significant role played by the UNA in the first decade of its existence, not only for Ukrainians in America, but for the entire Ukrainian nation in its struggle for political independence.

This is confirmed by yet another event associated directly with the Tenth Jubilee Anniversary of the UNA. In addition to celebrations during the convention, a special issue of *Svoboda* appeared just before the convention opened. This first jubilee edition of what was then still a weekly appeared on May 26, 1904 "Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary since the Establishment of the UNA and *Svoboda*." This issue had 18 pages of print on fine paper. At that time *Svoboda* was published in Scranton, Pa., under the editorship of the Rev. Ivan Ardan.

The "jubilee edition" was yet another example of *Svoboda's* role as a kind of bridge between Ukrainians in America and those back home in their native land. The edition consisted of two parts, — the first, "Native Ukrainians to their Brothers Beyond the Ocean," as the title spelled out in huge letters, and the second, which even without a specific title could be called "Ukrainians Beyond the Ocean to their Brothers in Ukraine."

The occasion and the circumstances which led to the publication of this edition are explained in an editorial article titled "The Feast of the UNA and *Svoboda*":

"We have issued today's edition of *Svoboda* in commemoration of the tenth jubilee anniversary of our newspaper and the Ukrainian National Association, the only national mutual aid organization in America. We say "the only" because even though other organizations do exist in America, they are not purely Ukrainian in character. They call themselves 'Russian,' and they try to divide Ukrainians along religious lines. No conscious Ukrainian can call such organizations Ukrainian.

"We have also extended an invitation through Mr. V. Hnatiuk, of Lviv, to our brothers and sisters in the Old Country, — in Ukraine, once free, now enslaved by the cruel tsars, in Galicia, part of a 'constitutional' monarchy but robbed by the Polish nobles, and those living in the green land of Bukovina.

"And they have responded to our call. We are grateful to them and to Mr. Hnatiuk. They have sent letters, pictures, and words of encourage-

ment. They have shown that they are concerned about the fate of Ukrainians in America, that they are interested in our life and activities here. Let it be a lesson to us that we should also be interested in our native country. Let it be an encouragement to work even harder on behalf of our people. Those people who today are divided and enslaved, whose children are separated by tall mountains, wide rivers, and deep seas; a people who have not succumbed, in spite of the enemy's efforts, but live proud and strong in their unity.

"Now the nation stirs and tests the strength of the chains that bind it. And the time is near when it will break the chains and crush its enemies.

"And it will emerge a nation free and happy.

"And it will build a home of its own.

"And in this home there will be no tsar, no overlord, but Equality, Brotherhood, and Liberty.

"Then we shall celebrate a greater feast,—a feast of unity and glory. We here must also make our contribution to bring about this feast of greatness and of glory.

"Then heed us, brothers!

"Let us pledge today that we shall work constantly for the good of our great nation to bring about as soon as possible the greatest of all great days when Ukraine shall be free and independent!"

This fervent declaration was pronounced on May 26, 1904! Even though separated by "tall mountains, wide rivers, and the deep sea," the Ukrainians in their native land and in America were united in spirit and desire to bring about the liberation of their native country.

Responding to *Svoboda's* invitation extended through V. Hnatiuk were such outstanding figures of the time as Ivan Franko, Panas Myrny, Ivan Nechui-Levytsky, Michael Kotsiubynsky, Borys Hrinchenko, Nicholas Lysenko, Modest Levytsky, Olena Pchilka, Hanna Barvinok, Michael Starytsky, Natalia Kobrynska, Ivan Steshenko, Vasyl Nahirny, Gregory Kovalenko, Michael Pavlyk, Nicholas Vorony, Eugenia Yaroshynsky, Michael Lozynsky.

The second part of the *Svoboda* jubilee edition contained mainly information on the eighth convention of the UNA. Both the jubilee edition of *Svoboda* and the UNA convention showed that great spirit of unity between Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainians in their native land, a spirit that knows no boundaries, no dividing lines. This can even be seen from the pre-convention slogans: "Glory to the Eighth Jubilee Convention of the Ukrainian National Association! Deliberate wisely for the good of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian American cause in general! May your Assembly bring a new epoch in the life of the Ukrainian American community! Long live the Supreme Officers and Honorable Delegates! Long live the members of the Ukrainian National Association and the entire Ukrainian people! May the cursed spectre

of strife and discord disappear forever... Ukraine has not yet perished!"

UNA CONVENTIONS IN THE SECOND STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

The work and struggle of the Ukrainian National Association embraced ever new areas, expanding in form and in content. However, in this second decade some shifting of emphasis and re-evaluation could be observed in the activity of the UNA. Apart from purely organizational and local matters, the accent is increasingly being placed on the problems of the "Old Country," while the pages of *Svoboda* carry a greater number of reports, articles, and, particularly, lists of donors for the cause of the then struggling Ukraine.

A brief description of each convention, as recorded in the minutes or in the editorial comments in *Svoboda*, will give the general picture of UNA's continued growth and expansion.

Five conventions (sixth through tenth, inclusively) were held in the first decade of this century, which we have chosen to call the second stage in the development of the UNA.

The Sixth Convention was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., from June 12 through June 14, 1900. Presiding over the convention was the Rev. M. Baloh, while Ivan Burshtyn and Vasyl Hryshko served as secretaries. There were 41 delegates in attendance.

Reports showed the total membership to be 3,067, and the total assets \$10,184.40.

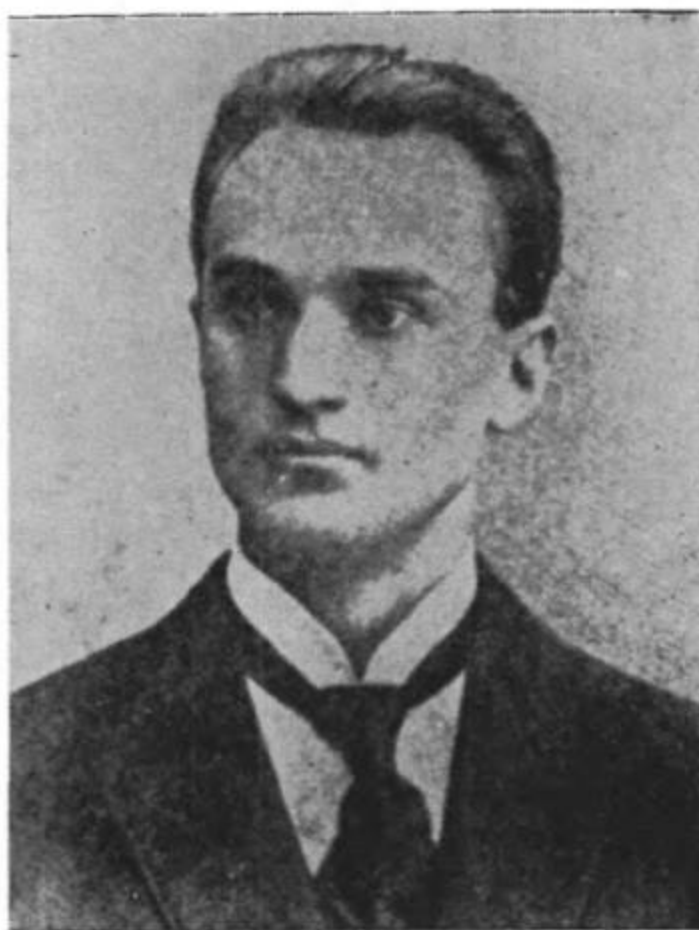
At this convention the delegates again discussed the problem of membership dues and initiation fees. The delegates knew full well that the 50-cent monthly due and the 50-cent initiation fee would have to be raised if the \$600 death benefit payment were to remain in effect. Thus it was decided that the initiation fee for new members 16-25 years of age would be 50 cents, 25-35 years of age — \$1.00, 35-40 years of age — \$1.50. Monthly dues were raised to 70 cents for all members.

It was also decided that the name of the organization in English would be changed to "Little Russian National Union." Each brotherhood was allowed to send one delegate to the convention.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: The Rev. Anthony Bonchevsky, President; Oleksiy Sharshon, Vice-President; Denis Pyrch, Secretary; K. Kyrchiv, Deputy Secretary; Oleksiy Shlianta, Treasurer; Auditing Committee: the Rev. Ivan Ardan, Kindrat Kotanchyk, Anthony Onushchak; Advisors: Vasyl Hryshko,



Rev. Anthony Bonchevsky
fourth Supreme President of the UNA



Rev. Nicholas Stefanovych
fifth Supreme President of the UNA

Phylymon Huretiak, the Rev. N. Dmytriv, A. Dobosh, Harasym Kuryla, Peter Ronchkovsky; Alternates: Ivan Burshtyn, Denys Holod, Toma Kopcha, Dmytro Korobchak, Ivan Paryliak.

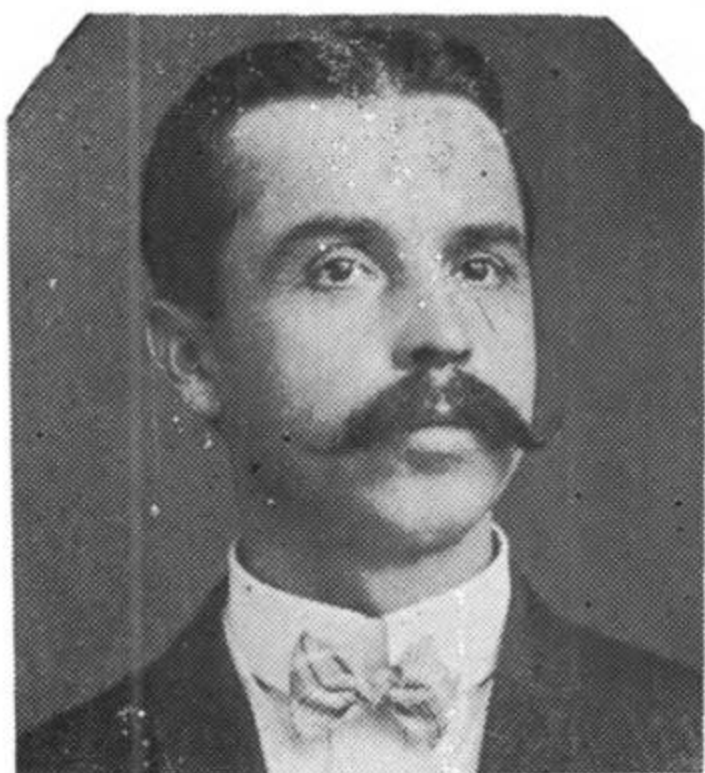
The annual meeting of the Supreme Assembly, held in Buffalo, N. Y., on June 11, 1901, agreed to accept members from Canada, providing that they form their own brotherhoods which will join the UNA.

The Seventh Convention was held in Jersey City, N. J. from June 18 through June 20, 1902. Presiding over the convention was the Rev. M. Stefanovych. S. Yadlovsky and V. Hryshko served as secretaries.

At that time the UNA had 60 branches with a total of 3,384 members counting adults and juveniles. 31 branches were represented at the convention by 57 voting delegates. The total assets of the UNA amounted to \$14,252.19.

The seventh convention was significant in that the Ukrainian delegates fought down a strong move by the Russophiles to take over the UNA. In the aftermath of the bitter struggle only patriotic Ukrainians were elected to the Supreme Assembly. It was also decided that only Ukrainians were to be elected to local branch posts.

Svoboda, the official organ of the UNA, was to receive 10 cents monthly for each adult member from the treasury of the UNA.



Constantine Kyrchiv
sixth Supreme President of the UNA



Dmytro Kapitula
seventh Supreme President

For the first time election of supreme officers was conducted by secret ballot.

The convention voted a \$50 contribution for Ukrainian students in Lviv, Ukraine.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: the Rev. M. Stefanovych, President; M. Kravchyshyn, Vice-President; Denys Pyrch, Secretary; Oleksiy Sharshon, Treasurer; Auditing Committee: the Rev. M. Pidhoretsky, Constantine Kyrchiv, Ivan Hordy; Advisors: M. Turak, Denys Holod, A. Dobosh, M. Pachuta, M. Gratson, Ivan Sabat; Alternates: Oleksiy Horbal, Michael Yuhas, Ome-lian Shpak, Alexander Valevsky, Nicholas Dobriansky.

The Eighth Convention took place in Shamokin, Pa., from May 30 through June 2, 1904, with 48 delegates attending. The Rev. S. Makar presided over the convention, while P. Poniatyshyn and J. Kulchytsky served as secretaries. The special privilege of honorary voting was given to Frs. Konstankevych, Strutynsky, Makar, Ardan, Tymkevych, Ulytsky, Dmytriv, Zlotsky.

The year 1904 marked the 10th jubilee anniversary of the UNA. The festive celebrations have been described elsewhere.

The report of Supreme President Rev. Stefanovych showed that in the period from 1902 to 1904, the UNA lost 106 members through death. Over the 10-year period of its existence, the UNA had lost through death 134 men, 85 women, and 22 children, a total of 241 members. The death benefit payments for that period amounted to



of the UNA
Rev. Stephen Makar
third Editor-in-Chief of
"Svoboda"

Rev. Ivan Ardan
fourth Supreme Secretary of
the UNA, owner and fourth
Editor-in-Chief of "Svoboda"



\$94,578. In addition, the UNA paid out \$5,463 to its members in the form of special aid. Administrative expenses over the same period amounted to \$27,157, thus giving a 10-year total of \$127,198. The total income for the period was \$145,193. When the disbursements were subtracted from the income, a sum of \$17,495.34 remained, representing the total assets of the UNA after ten years of operation. The total membership of the UNA was 5,867. The individual reserves amount to \$3.00 per member.

The convention resolved that once a year, in December, all adult members would contribute 25 cents to the Indigent Fund.

The following officers were elected to the Supreme Assembly: Constantine Kyrchiv, President; S. Mytrenka, Vice-President, Semen Yadlovsky, Secretary; J. Kulchytsky, Deputy Secretary; O. Sharshon, Treasurer, A. Yankovych, Deputy Treasurer; Auditing Committee: the Rev. O. Ulytsky, I. Vorhach, M. Turkovsky; Advisors: O. Valievsky, M. Dembitsky, A. Soroka, A. Semanytsky, K. Koban,

Ivan Paryliak; Alternates: J. Senko, I. Posypanko, M. Dombrovsky; The Rev. M. Pidhoretsky, Organizer.

The Ninth Convention was held in Scranton, Pa., from June 25 through June 28, 1906 with 72 delegates taking part in the proceedings. Presiding over the convention was the Rev. M. Stefanovych, while S. Kalakula and T. Labovsky served as secretaries.

The secretary's report showed that the UNA had 139 branches and a total of 7,888 members. The total assets amounted to \$23,705.34.

The ninth convention was significant in that it abolished the 70-cent monthly dues and instead adopted the system of "arbitrary assessment." The amount of benefit payment was raised to \$1,000. All members were to contribute two cents to the Reserve Fund, one cent to the Indigent Fund, and one cent to the National Fund.

St. Volodymyr was adopted as the patron-saint of the UNA.

Another significant aspect of the ninth convention was the decision to adopt the phonetic alphabet for *Svoboda* and the UNA.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Constantine Kyrchiv, President; Ivan Paryliak, Vice-President; S. Yadlovsky and T. Labovsky, Secretaries; Oleksiy Sharshon, Treasurer; the Rev. Stephen Makar, Spiritual Moderator of the UNA; Auditing Committee: the Rev. Lev Levytsky, Osyp Stetkevych, Stephen Kalakula; Advisors: Michael Biela, Matthew Semeniuk, Andrew Ovsak, Theodosius Talpash, F. Polyvka, Lev Monita.

Commenting editorially on the convention, *Svoboda* wrote as follows:

"It should be noted that all delegates who took part in this convention were conscientious, prudent, responsible, and serious-minded men. They did not come here to quarrel or bicker or to seek personal aggrandizement, but rather to see how each of them could best contribute to the growth of the organization... Some of the more important resolutions adopted at the convention were: The abolition of the 70-cent monthly membership due and its replacement by the method of arbitrary assessment. The death benefit payment was raised to \$1,000, whereby single and poor persons were given an opportunity to subscribe to half this sum of benefit payment. A permanent National Fund was created at this convention. The UNA contributed \$100 to the Liberation Fund in Galicia. It was decided to accept Ukrainian Canadians into the ranks of UNA membership. It was resolved unanimously to adopt the phonetic alphabet for *Svoboda* and the UNA, that is, the alphabet used in all Ukrainian schools, books, and newspapers... This convention reorganized the UNA, giving it a firm foundation and thus assuring further growth and a bright future."

The Tenth Convention was held in Philadelphia, Pa., from July 7 through July 10, 1908. There were 121 delegates. Presiding over



Delegates to the Tenth Convention of the UNA in Philadelphia in 1908. Bishop Soter Ortynsky, patron and honorary member of the UNA, is seated front row, center.

the convention was Rev. L. Levytsky, while P. Poniatyshyn and V. Hryshko served as secretaries.

The financial report showed that the total two-year income was \$217,284.28. The disbursements amounted to \$171,213.02, thus giving \$46,071.26 in total assets. For the first time the treasurer's report contained a breakdown of moneys allocated in various funds. There was \$21,017.05 in the Orphans' Fund, \$16,646.27 in the Reserve Fund, \$1,567.03 in the National Fund, \$1,674.03 in the Indigent Fund, and \$6,195.43 in the Administrative Fund.

The secretary reported that the UNA had a total of 10,266 members. It was decided that new members would be accepted into the UNA only under 45 years of age.

It was also decided to engage professional persons to appraise the *Svoboda* printing shop, owned at that time by the Ruthenian Exchange Company. On the basis of this appraisal, the UNA was to purchase the shop.

The Supreme Assembly purchased both the shop and the newspaper on July 21, 1908 for \$16,855.

The convention also decided that *Svoboda* should use both the Latin and the Ukrainian alphabets, since Ukrainians from Hungary

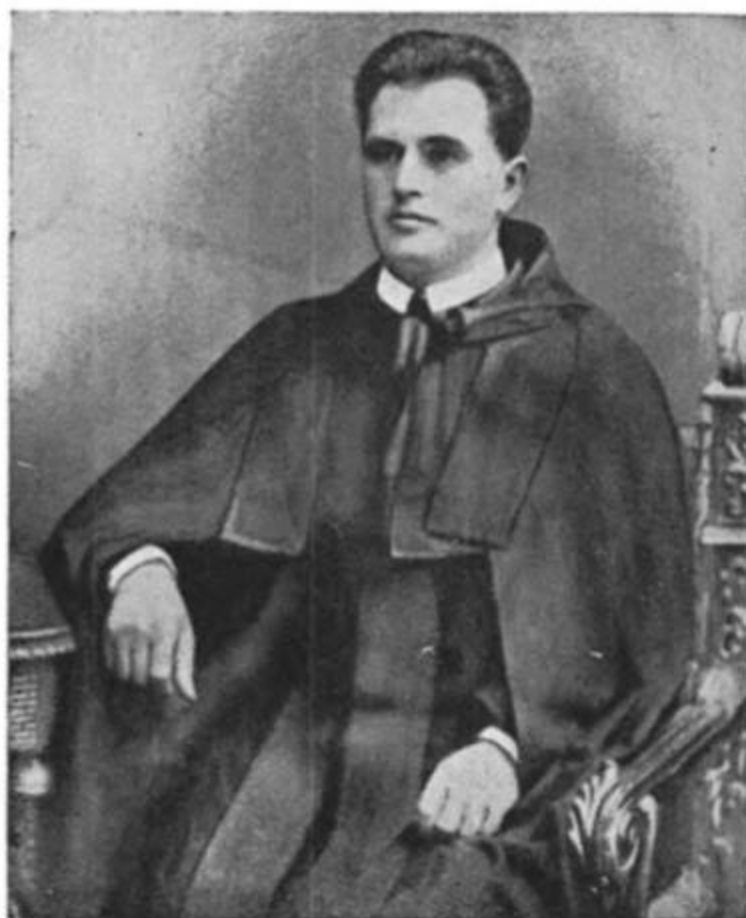
III. PERIOD OF GREAT CRISES

1910-1920

STRUGGLE FOR THE NATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE UNA

The 10th convention brought to a conclusion the second important phase in the development of the UNA.

The subsequent convention, held in September of 1910 in Cleveland, Ohio, was marked by a series of new problems, mostly internal in character. Although the Association's name still retained the word "Ruthenian," this was merely a traditional form, for by now the organization's course had been set, and it was forging ahead on the wings of the awakened Ukrainian spirit. To be sure, the struggle against Russophilism continued, but it was no longer an "internal conflict." It was an outright



The Most Rev. Soter Ortynsky, OSBM,
first Bishop of Ukrainian Catholics in
the USA.

struggle against an aggressively imperialistic Russian front, strongly organized and heavily subsidized, yet shrewdly trying to hide its face under the guise of Orthodoxy. The Ukrainian National Association was at that time the undisputed leader of all Ukrainian groups in America. Thus when Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky arrived for a visit here in August of 1910, he was greeted "in behalf of all Ukrainian Americans" by UNA Supreme President Dmytro Kapitula. Yet, one specific event that took place at the convention reflected the bitter struggle for power. It was to have a far-reaching effect on the further de-

velopment of the Association. A resolution was passed at the convention changing the name of the organization from the "Ruthenian National Association" to "Greek-Catholic Ruthenian Association." The decision was made under pressure from Bishop Soter Ortynsky, who chaired the convention's by-laws committee and who insisted that the organization be subordinated to the Catholic bishop. Other resolutions adopted along the same lines specified that only persons of Greek-Catholic faith could serve as delegates to the UNA conventions, and that each member of the UNA must go to confession during Easter holidays. In the aftermath of the convention a bitter struggle began to emerge between Church and secular elements over supremacy in the life of the Ukrainian American community. Internal strife and fragmentation imperiled the very existence of the UNA as the struggle began to assume extreme forms. In this situation it was only natural for *Svoboda*, the official organ of the UNA, to assume the role of a mediator, trying to assuage the conflict and prevent the break-up of the organization. Speaking editorially, *Svoboda* wrote on October 13, 1910:

"From time immemorial our national life has been plagued by internal strife and conflict. It was personal strife and rivalry among princes that resulted in the fall of our once great and powerful state. Broken up into small principalities, this great state fell prey to the Tatar hordes who dealt a final blow to our statehood and independence on the River Kalka. It was the same strife that opened the doors to Polish pillagers in their march on Kiev and broke the nation's power of resistance . . . This strife, that has truly become our curse, hangs like a dark cloud over our heads. It has grown into our flesh and bones, so much so that it is virtually identical with everything that is Ukrainian. And today, whenever four Ukrainians get together, you can bet your last penny that each one of them belongs to a different party. He does not even bother to ask himself whether he understands why he belongs to this or that "party," whether he knows what he pretends to believe in, whether the slogans that he so loudly preaches emanate from deep conviction . . . This explains what we are now experiencing in our Ukrainian American community . . . Let us only consider this fact: what will the Ukrainian American and the Ukrainian people as a whole gain if the UNA breaks up into three or four small and insignificant groups. We know that we are weak, separated from our native mainstream, surrounded by a sea of foreigners, — and that only in unity can we hope to preserve our heritage and our faith. We know that 'unity builds and strife destroys . . .' And yet, what are we doing? We are discarding our history's lessons, trampling on reason, and contradicting the simplest rules of logic . . ."

This article was written with the intention of quieting down the vehemently strong objections of UNA membership against "the take-over by the priests." Furthermore, the article gave as-

urance that it is the convention, — and thus the people, — which is solely responsible for what transpires within the UNA, and that therefore the people will decide what the UNA will be like. Yet, following the convention, some UNA branches and members left the organization and formed a “New Association” or “Association No. 2,” now known as the Ukrainian Workingmen’s Association. Somewhat later, in 1911, another organization came into being in Philadelphia — the Association of Ruthenian Greek-Catholic Church Brotherhoods “Christian Love” in America. Later it became known as the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America. It was founded by Bishop Ortynsky on the advice of the same people who had earlier sought to change the name of the UNA to the Greek-Catholic Association. This organization was founded immediately after it was established by legal counsel that the name change was not in accordance with the constitution of the UNA. It was then that Bishop Ortynsky decided to leave the UNA.

At the twelfth convention, held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in September, 1912, the delegates “divided into two camps, just like a parliament of some sort: the right wing on one side of the aisle and the left wing on the other.” In spite of rivalry that was quite apparent at this convention, the fact is that “both parties strove toward one common objective — to put their organization on firm national foundations.” And they achieved their goal: the organization was put on a firm national basis and has remained so until the present day.

And what was the fate of the name “Greek-Catholic Association?” What was the after-effect of the change? The answer can be found in the report of UNA Supreme President D. Kapitula presented at the convention in Wilkes-Barre. He stated that the decision to change the organization’s name “caused much confusion and strife during the convention and even more after the convention, so that even those delegates who had voted for the change came out against it as soon as they returned home.” The president went on to say that “at the very same time the so-called ‘progressives’ did everything in their power to break up our organization: they took over entire branches, appropriated their funds, and forced them into joining the just emerging ‘Association No. 2’. They were deceiving our members by telling them to leave the Association which was dominated by the priests and join the old Association, the kind that they had prior to the 11th convention. Others demanded that the organization should be renamed as soon as pos-

sible. And so the struggle began..." Actually, the idea of changing the name never amounted to anything, because the Association's legal adviser "stated clearly that according to the prevailing laws of the land the resolution calling for a change of name and charter is null and void, and that therefore the change cannot be effectuated..." Thus the resolution never went into effect, but, as already stated above, it did cause a split in the UNA which resulted in the emergence of two other fraternal benefit societies, the Ukrainian Workingmen's Association and the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America. The appearance of these two organizations created new conditions which had a marked effect on the further development of the Ukrainian American community. And even though it did contribute to intensified internal strifes and conflicts, the formation of new organizations could have been fully justified if they, like the UNA, had turned to the people, organized the masses, and concentrated on the great pioneering efforts pursued by the UNA.

There was much to be done in this respect, for at that time (early 1910's) out of several hundred thousand Ukrainians in the United States only 15,000 were members of the UNA. But the new organizations did not arise out of the pressing needs of the Ukrainian community. Their appearance was motivated by rivalry. Instead of organizing new members and thus enlarging the Ukrainian organized community, much effort was wasted on "pulling over" the already organized members of the UNA. Despite such harassment, the Ukrainian National Association continued its pioneering work, functioning at the same time as the central representative organization of all Ukrainian Americans. Characterizing merely one phase of UNA's work in the second decade of its existence is the report cited below.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Wilkes-Barre convention, held in 1912, established an Educational Committee and vested in it all the necessary powers to conduct wide-ranging educational activities in the Ukrainian American community. The Committee's report, published in *Svoboda* of January 29, 1914, speaks for itself:

Publications

Some time ago the UNA Educational Committee sent one of its representatives on a tour of Ukrainian centers in the United States. Soon it became apparent that one representative would not have time to visit all centers and enlist the necessary number of members for the American

Prosvita Society by the end of the year. We were concerned mainly with coming into closer contact with the mass of people and organizing members for the *Prosvita* Society in America.

The greater the work, the more time, effort, and money it requires. It takes time for a child to become a man; it takes time for an acorn to grow into a large oak tree; it is the same with the Educational Committee and its work. Yet the Committee is not only continuing its work here in America, but it has been joined by some of the most prominent men and societies in the Old Country.

We had hoped that by the end of the year the *Prosvita* Society would have at least 5,000 members. But in spite of great efforts by our representatives and the Committee itself, we were able to enlist only 2,000 members. Beginning with the new year, the Educational Committee will publish small educational books each month for the members of the American *Prosvita* Society as well as an illustrated newspaper for youth. Moreover, it will continue working on plans to publish popular books and lectures. The Educational Committee is constantly receiving these lectures and we shall start printing them as soon as we obtain illustrations for them. We are also working on a number of popular books dealing with various branches of science.

A book on Taras Shevchenko is already in print, and it will appear on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the poet's birth.

As regards school matters, the primer is ready for publication, but the Committee is deliberately holding up the printing because a new method of teaching reading has been recently introduced in schools. . . The first and the second part of a reader for Ukrainian American children are being prepared for printing and will soon be published. As already stated above, starting with the new year, the Educational Committee will publish a monthly illustrated newspaper for children, which may even appear more frequently once a greater number of subscribers have been secured.

As regards publication of general books, we are pleased to report that Mr. Julian Bachynsky has already published the first volume of the history of Ukrainians in America, a project which was realized with substantial assistance from the Educational Committee. Shortly, Mr. Bachynsky will send the requested number of copies. Also, with the help of the Educational Committee and the Ukrainian Information Committee in Lviv, Mr. Rafalovych, himself a non-Ukrainian, has already published a history of Ukraine in English. Thus two of the most urgent tasks have been accomplished on the Committee's initiative and with its help.

As soon as the Educational Committee prepares the major part of all material for printing, it will begin systematic publication of small scientific books of popular character, in addition to children's literature and the illustrated monthly. At the same time, the Committee will tackle the organizational problems with renewed effort.

Formation of Ukrainian 'Sich' Societies and 'Prosvita' Reading Rooms

First, we must give greater support to the establishment of educational reading rooms and clubs. So far such clubs have been organized in the following cities: Chicago, which has a well organized club and read-

ing room. It has six rooms, a pool table, a library, an amateur drama club, a choir, a sports club *Sich*, and a total of 100 members. The New York club has two pool tables and is growing rapidly. The Pittsburgh club, which has a *Prosvita* reading room and a pool table, is also progressing nicely. In Scranton there is a club attached to the "New Association," similar to that in Chicago; Olyphant also has a club with a *Prosvita* reading room, as do other centers of Ukrainian organized life.

Some people may think that the establishment of those few clubs is of little significance. However, it is most important that a start has been made, and we are certain that soon an entire network of similar clubs and *Prosvita* reading rooms will be developed in the United States. First steps are always difficult. It is hard to move a stone, but once it is moved it can be rolled easily. The most difficult task is to convince the people that this or that project is necessary; once this is accomplished, the people will work hard toward its realization. We are certain that the establishment of clubs with reading rooms is the only possible way of maintaining such reading rooms in our centers of organized life in America. . . . The function of these clubs is not only to enlighten the members, but to provide them with worthwhile amusement and diversion. It is for this purpose that we have published such booklets as "How to Conduct Games in Clubs" and "Humorous Verses and Monologues." These clubs should not only serve as centers for youth and cultural activity. They should become societies that cultivate the spirit of brotherhood, fraternalism, mutual cooperation and assistance, as well as moral and material support. It was for this reason that we included a specific provision in the by-laws of clubs and reading rooms stating that it was the duty of each member to help others secure employment if for some reason they had lost their previous jobs. In addition, each member is required to contribute 5 cents monthly to a relief fund established for those members who might be in need of material assistance. The Educational Committee hopes that these clubs and reading rooms can be eventually transformed into organizations similar to the American YMCA. . . . In the Old Country the *Sich* and the *Prosvita* societies serve different purposes. Here, we intend to adapt them to the prevailing conditions so that they may best serve the needs of our community. The Educational Committee will soon publish an appropriate appeal to our youth concerning clubs and reading rooms.

Political Organization

One of the tasks which the Educational Committee has set for itself is the political organization of the Ukrainian American community. Efforts must be made to establish citizenship schools in each club and reading rooms where members would receive instruction from competent persons on how to become American citizens. This is a matter of great importance . . .

Until now the Ukrainian American community has led a life completely different from that in the Old Country. For that matter, all communities on this earth have suffered from lack of proper communications . . . We knew little about the Old Country, and the people there knew even less about us. There was no mutual interest in our affairs. It was not until the Ukrainian National Association came into being and the Educational Committee was formed that a new trend developed and firm

foundations of unity were established,—unity among Ukrainian Americans here, unity with their brethren in the native land and other countries of the world . . .

The time has finally arrived to form a central committee consisting of representatives of all our organizations in America. The main functions of this Central Ukrainian National Committee would be: 1) Establishment of a political organization; 2) Establishment of close contacts with political organizations in our former homeland on both sides of the dividing boundary, i.e., in Galicia and in Eastern Ukraine; 3) Informing the American press about the history of our people, their culture, their struggle, and their aspirations; 4) Formation of Ukrainian political clubs in America so as to gain greater recognition and political influence in our new homeland; 5) Organization of political rallies, meetings, etc.

Economic Affairs

One last area which lies in the realm of the Educational Committee's anticipated range of activities is the economic well-being of our communities. Until now the Committee has not been able to devote much time to this phase of our life. One of the projects on which we should start immediately is the establishment of loan-construction banks in our communities. This undertaking requires practically no capital investment.

All that is needed is one intelligent man who would know how to keep a simple system of financial books. The operation of these banks is quite simple: any number of people can get together and elect a president, a treasurer, and a financial secretary. The committee is then incorporated for a sum of, let us say, \$500,000. The cost of incorporation is negligible. The committee then begins to sell shares, whereby each member buys a share worth \$100 but pays only 25 cents weekly. Of course, a person can buy more than one share and pay 25 cents weekly per each share acquired. The money thus collected is loaned by the bank for the so-called first mortgage but only on real estate property. If the borrower is a non-member, he then automatically becomes one, for in addition to the interest on the money borrowed he must pay 25 cents weekly for each one hundred dollars loaned to him by the bank . . . As you can see, such banks would cultivate the idea of saving among our people; they would contribute to greater prosperity and acquisition of real estate property such as lots, houses, farms, etc.

But the economic activity cannot stop here. It must be broadened to include the following: 1) Establishment of immigration centers in the main ports of the country; 2) Establishment of employment bureaus in the immigration centers and in every community; 3) Establishment of law offices; 4) Establishment of a money exchange bureau and a boat ticket agency; 5) Establishment of a Ukrainian bookstore which would supply reading material to all Ukrainians in America; 6) Expansion of the scholarship fund which has already furnished seven scholarships for our students; it is planned to have more scholarships in the future . . .

This report of the UNA Educational Committee illustrates clearly the vastly diverse and prominent role played by the UNA in virtually every sector of the Ukrainian American community

life. At that time, the UNA was the present-day UCCA, the Economic Council, the Educational Council, the *Prosvita* Society, and the *Ridna Shkola*, as well as the central representative organization of the external sector and the moving force of our entire community life in America. But, as can be seen from the proposal to establish a Central Ukrainian National Committee, the UNA had neither the intention nor the desire to monopolize all activities or the leadership, even though it would have been justified in doing so. Taking into consideration the existence of other organizations, the UNA strove to create the broadest possible basis for joint effort and cooperation. The Ukrainian National Association always adhered to that policy. It continues to do so today.

And what happened to the Educational Committee? It functioned until 1917, that is, up to the 14th UNA convention, at which time it was dissolved because of shortage of funds resulting from a grave crisis within the organization. The decision to revive the Committee was reached at the 23rd convention, held in Washington, D. C., in 1954. At that time the UNA Cultural Committee was created, on the pattern of the former Educational Committee.

Even though it lasted only five years, the Educational Committee performed a number of important tasks. But what is more significant, this body gave proper direction to further progress and expansion.

Created by the 12th convention, the UNA Educational Committee consisted of seven members: Dr. V. Simenovych, E. Stru-tynska, D. Andreiko, the Rev. V. Balogh, A. Horbal, Y. Pavchak, Dr. I. Kopystiansky, and Olena Kysilevska as the committee's representative in Ukraine; officers of the UNA Supreme Assembly were also members of the Committee. A special fund was established by the convention, to which members were to contribute 3 cents along with their monthly dues. The main objectives of the Committee were enlightenment, education, and publications. Immediately upon its formation, the Educational Committee proceeded to organize Ukrainian teachers in order to establish a uniform system of instruction. Steps were taken to found a Central Ukrainian Library in America and a Ukrainian Archive in America. On January 15, 1914 the Committee began publishing monthly books and a monthly children's magazine *Tsvitka* (Flower); 33 issues of this magazine appeared in the period from 1914-17. The publication of books continued through 1914 "in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko." In 1914-15 a total of 45 different books had been published and sold to UNA branches at a wholesale price of \$1.50



Julian Pavchak,
member of the UNA Educational
Committee and prominent pioneer
civic leader.

Dr. Volodymyr Simenovych,
first Ukrainian intellectual and
← cultural leader in the USA

per copy. Until 1917, that is, during the entire period of the Educational Committee's functioning, a total of 131,000 copies were distributed among Ukrainians in the United States. Also, 74 popular lectures were given during the same period of time. In addition to Ukrainian books, the Educational Committee started publishing books in the English language, a major undertaking that has been continued by the UNA with great success until the present time. Specifically, the Committee published *The Ukraine* by Bedwin Sands and the *Memorandum on the Ukrainian Question in Its National Aspect* by Jaroslav Fedorchuk. In addition, the UNA purchased and then distributed two publications of the Ukrainian National Council, *The Russian Plot to Seize Galicia and Russia, Poland and Ukraine*. It should be mentioned that the Educational Committee provided \$2,300 in scholarship loans to Ukrainian students.

THE GREAT CRISIS

The UNA experienced its most serious crisis during and after the 13th convention held early in September of 1914. It was at this convention that the name of the organization was changed from the "Ruthenian National Association" to the "Ukrainian National Association." The cause of this crisis was the introduction of the modern system of insurance which required that the members'

monthly dues be assessed on the basis of the National Fraternal Congress Table of Mortality, that is, according to the age of the policy holder. The main reason behind UNA's decision to adopt this reform was the fact that legal authorities of various states in which UNA branches had been organized, demanded that the Association introduce the new system as required by law. Then as now, the insurance law required, that each fraternal benefit society which furnished life insurance plans for its members in various states maintain a reserve fund with 100 per cent coverage for all policies issued. The UNA Reserve Fund amounted at that time to \$101,406.25, but on the basis of an appraisal of all policies in force it should have been \$593,944.33. The adoption of the reform, unavoidable as it was, caused a great deal of indignation among the membership, especially among members of the older age group, since the new system required that the dues be assessed according to age at the time of the reform (1915) and not according to the person's age at the time of joining the UNA. The UNA was subjected to vicious attacks from rival organizations which claimed that the change was unnecessary, although they themselves were forced to adopt it later on. Nevertheless, it was the UNA alone that suffered losses. After the convention its membership in the adult class alone decreased from 19,000 at the Buffalo convention to approximately 6,000 by the end of 1914.

To have a better understanding of the crisis that came shortly after the internal split, it is necessary to discuss several other aspects of the problem. To facilitate the organizational work and to embrace the greatest number of people in the early stages of its development, the UNA maintained such low dues that members could take out insurance plans for minimal sums of money. Sometimes the amount of insurance could not even cover the funeral expenses. It took a great deal of effort and persuasion to convince the members that the dues and the amount of insurance had to be increased so that "a few pennies" would be left over for the family of the deceased. But when the members felt that the dues were too high, they voted for the adoption of the so-called "arbitrary assessment," introduced at the 9th convention in 1906. This meant that at the end of each month the UNA Executive Committee had to figure out the amount of money to be paid out in death benefits and the to divide this sum equally among the living members. Of course, the amount varied each month depending on the mortality rate and the dues varied accordingly. This system had only one positive aspect — it taught members to pay their dues on time. In

all other respects the system could have resulted in a disaster, first because it did not build up the UNA finances and secondly, it carried no guarantee that the deceased member's family would receive the expected amount of insurance money. It was for these reasons that other American organizations began adopting the new system of assessment, which enabled them to build up the necessary funds and thus assure the membership that all of the obligations assumed by the organization would be carried out in full. The UNA leaders understood the problem, and when they received "encouragement" from state insurance authorities they decided to make the change.

There is no doubt that the new system would have been adopted without much furor and the subsequent losses in membership, were it not for the internal strife and rivalry conducted in the most vicious manner. Consequently, the UNA lost close to two thirds of its membership to the competing groups which claimed that the change was unnecessary. The law requiring the adoption of the new system by all organizations prevented what seemed like an imminent catastrophe, and the UNA gradually regained its strength, power, and vitality. Its funds grew steadily, as did the membership and their confidence in the organization. Having once taken a decisive step toward modernization, the UNA proceeded consistently along the same lines, developing into one of the most modern American organizations of its kind.

SHEVCHENKO CENTENARY

The internal crisis of the UNA in no way diminished the organization's endeavors in the realm of social and national pursuits. On the contrary, the work intensified and assumed greater proportions. Of special significance were such UNA sponsored projects as the Relief Fund for the needy in Galicia, the Jubilee Gift for *Ridna Shkola*, assistance to the *Sokil* and *Sich* societies, and a host of other worth-while activities sponsored by the UNA and its "illustrious members," as they were referred to in all appeals.

Simultaneously, the UNA initiated a two-pronged drive on the political front: the first against Poland in connection with the famine and persecution in Galicia, and the second against Russia, protesting the government's ban on the observance of the 100th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birth, as well as other repressive measures applied to Ukrainians. In this connection the UNA sent a letter of protest to President Woodrow Wilson. Sent from Jersey City on March 20, 1914, the letter read as follows:

Mr. President:

On March 10th of this year, 100 years have elapsed since the birth of the greatest Ukrainian poet, Taras Shevchenko. It is a great national holiday observed by 40 million Ukrainians, 35 million of whom live in southern European Russia, 4 million in Austria-Hungary (Galicia, Bukovina and northern Hungary) and 1 million in the United States. Our countrymen in all of these territories were making arrangements for solemn observances of this great anniversary. The official—and most impressive—ceremonies were to be held in Kiev, our nation's capital, with representatives from all Ukrainian lands scheduled to take part in the observances. The City Council was to erect a monument in honor of the Poet and to stage rallies and parades in the city on that day. Other cities of Ukraine, such as Poltava, Odessa, Kamianets Podilsky, were also making preparations to properly observe this great national holiday. However, at the last moment the Russian Ministry said that no observances would be allowed. No reasons were given. The Synod, which is the highest church authority in Russia, did not even permit commemorative religious services on that day. Thus the holiday in honor of the Poet who was born near Kiev and whose mound overlooks the Dnieper River near that city, will be observed only by Ukrainians in Austria-Hungary and in France. A strong voice of protest against this inhuman act of the Russian government was raised by all opposition deputies in the Russian Duma and by the Ukrainian deputies in the Galician Diet. A million of Ukrainians, living in this land of the free, are also compelled to raise their voices in protest against this act directed at our people by the barbaric government of Russia. In the absence of other channels of communication, we are entrusting this protest to you, Mr. President, in the hope that you will communicate its contents to the representative of Imperial Russia in Washington.

The letter was signed by the members of the UNA Supreme Executive Committee: Dmytro Kapitula, president; Semen Yadlovsky, financial secretary; Oleksiy Sharshon, treasurer; and Michael Uhorchak, recording secretary. As it became evident later on, this protest was presented to the Tsarist government in St. Petersburg. At the same time, the Ukrainian National Association and the *Svoboda* daily initiated a vigorous campaign for the commemoration of the Shevchenko centenary by Ukrainians in the United States. The occasion was also utilized for the popularization of Shevchenko's works. The most impressive celebration was staged in New York on May 30, 1914. The program consisted of a mass parade down Fifth Avenue and a grand concert at Webster Hall.



Sisterhood of the Holy Mother, Branch 151 of the UNA in Allentown, Pa., 1914.



Taras Shevchenko Society, Branch 241 of the UNA in Providence, R. I., 1914.

THE PERIOD OF WORLD WAR I

The greatest internal crisis in the history of the Ukrainian National Association coincided with an equally severe, even cataclysmic, crisis of global proportions — the first World War, which broke out on July 28, 1914. And when with the sound of the first shots the Ukrainian people and their leaders launched a most intensive mobilization of all of their resources so as to utilize the opportunity for the realization of their age-long dream — re-establishment of the Ukrainian state, — the Ukrainian Americans, led by the UNA, strove to do their share in helping make this dream come true. *Svoboda*, which recorded all events taking place in Ukraine, made the following announcement in its edition of August 20, 1914:

This is to announce that a Committee has been formed on the initiative of the Supreme Assembly of the Ukrainian National Association for the sole purpose of establishing a Ukrainian National Council that would act as a representative national body of all Ukrainians in the United States. The election, composition, scope of activities, and the seat of the Council will be discussed in detail at the UNA convention in Buffalo which will begin on September 7 . . . The Council will be composed of representatives of all parties. It will be in charge of all political matters of national importance, and it will endeavor to establish closer relations with our brothers in Ukraine. . . At this time we have no news from our native land, but soon the curtain that separates us may be raised, and we may hear the long-awaited word from our brothers. It is of paramount importance that they have someone to speak to, that there be a single, unified organization of all Ukrainian Americans . . .

And so it happened. The Ukrainian National Council came into being at the UNA convention held in Buffalo from September 7 through September 14, 1914. And even though it was the UNA which was solely responsible for the establishment of the Council, even though it had many an account to settle with the competing groups, and in spite of the fact that in its endeavors and intensive political action for the cause of Ukraine's liberation it could have managed without them, the UNA, ever mindful of the common good and the supreme objectives, spared no effort in seeing to it that the Council constitute a truly representative body of all Ukrainians in the United States. Still, most of the work had to be done by the UNA.

Immediately upon its formation, the Ukrainian National Council issued the following appeal to "the Ukrainian people in the United States" (September 10):

"At this very moment we are witnessing what may be the turning point in the history of Europe, and particularly in the life of the forty-

million Ukrainian nation. The current war in Europe may lead to a complete overthrow of the existing political order. Nations which until now have been kept in slavery may be called upon to start a new life—the life of freedom and political independence. It is possible that new national states will emerge after the war, and Ukraine may be one of them. An independent Ukrainian state has been the dream of every patriotic Ukrainian. Our people have suffered Polish oppression under Austria; they have been subjected to Hungarian persecution; but the most cruel oppression of all was that imposed by the Russian tsars and their regimes. For 260 years they have kept 35 millions of Ukrainian people in slavery, striving to annihilate them as a nation and then deliver this freedom-loving people into the hands of the plunderer from the north, along with the fertile lands and the vast natural resources of Ukraine. The tsarist henchmen and our own turncoats were just about ready to bury the great Ukrainian people as the messenger of death spread his shadowy wings over the broad steppes. Our people felt deeply the horrors of this oppression, and they expressed their grief in folk songs and *dumas*. No wonder that they spoke of the Russian enslavement as being even worse than that which the Ukrainian people suffered at one time at the hands of the pagan Turks. But in the last few decades the Ukrainian people, awakened by the great spirit of Shevchenko, no longer shed their bitter tears. They nursed the spirit of national consciousness—that indestructible fortress of resistance that will shatter Moscow's designs . . . The war waged by Russia is a war for Ukraine. This is no secret, and neither the Russian government nor its henchmen are trying to conceal it . . . Austria-Hungary and Germany are opposing the barbaric Russia. They are not fighting for Ukraine's freedom, but for their own interests . . . We Ukrainians, wherever we may be, have no reason to be friends of either Austria or her ally Germany. Thanks to the Hapsburgs our people suffered the horrors of Polish persecution in Austria . . . But if Russia is defeated we may hope for the liberation of Ukraine. We are against Russian domination, and we feel that the removal of this domination would also benefit the Russian people. We only wish for them the enjoyment of the same freedom that we are striving to attain . . . Should Russia win the war, it will mean even greater enslavement for many peoples, particularly the Ukrainian people. We hope, that Russia is defeated in war and that the Russian empire is broken up into its constituent parts. And we have good reasons to feel the way we do: for the treaty of Pereiaslav, violated and trampled upon by the tsars; for Poltava, for our hetmans, shamefully abused and disgraced; for the destruction of the Zaporozhian Sich; for the Kozak bones on which St. Petersburg was built; for the spirit that was kept in chains; for the language that was mutilated; for the many prisons and for Siberia; for the blood and tears of Ukrainian women and children; for centuries of torture, cruelty, and oppression . . ."

Quoting Taras Shevchenko's "Testament" and Ivan Franko's "Moses" the appeal continued:

"Why is the Ukrainian National Council appealing today to all our brothers in the United States? We are not calling you to arms, but to a different kind of help that is needed by our Fatherland. Since we can-



Osyp Stetkevych,
sixth Editor-in-Chief
← of "Svoboda"



Volodymyr Lototsky,
seventh Editor-in-Chief
of "Svoboda"

not help with arms, let us help with the fruit of our toil—with money! Every one of us must contribute as much as we can to help Ukraine in this hour of need. We must establish a Fund for the Liberation of Ukraine! And this matter will be in the hands of the Ukrainian National Council as the representative body of all Ukrainians in the United States . . ."

The appeal further enumerated specific objectives for which the fund was needed: political action, assistance to Ukrainian prisoners of war, preparations for the peace conference, etc. The appeal was signed in behalf of the Ukrainian National Council by Dmytro Kapitula, Semen Yadlovsky, Oleksiy Sharshon, Michael Uhorchak, Osyp Stetkevych, Volodymyr Lototsky, Bohdan Dutkevych, Andrew Savka, Dmytro Andreiko, and Vasyl Hryshko. Most of these men were members of the UNA Supreme Assembly. The headquarters of the Ukrainian National Council and the Fund for the Liberation of Ukraine were housed in the *Svoboda* editorial offices.

The UNA-created Council not only proclaimed the manifesto, but gave a concrete example of how the problem should be tackled. It was simultaneously announced that "the 13th convention of the UNA made the first contribution of \$2,000, whereby \$1,000 is designated for political action and \$1,000 for assistance to the wounded and the prisoners of war. After the convention the delegates collected close to \$200 for the Fund for the Liberation of Ukraine."

As we shall see later on, the same pattern was followed during the period of the second World War.

The Ukrainian National Council, "with its seat in Jersey City," proceeded with its work as outlined in the appeal. It collected money

for the Fund for the Liberation of Ukraine and appropriated it for the designated purposes. In its edition of August 28, 1915 (approximately one year after the creation of the Ukrainian National Council), *Svoboda* reported that "through the efforts of the Ukrainian National Council, or rather, the Ukrainian National Association, with which the Council maintains extremely close relations, a total of \$18,575 has been collected and mailed in four separate cheques to Mr. Julian Romanchuk in Vienna. The money, designated for the cause of Ukrainian liberation and for relief work, amounts to 110,000 *kronen*."

On August 31, 1915 a conference was held in New York City on the possibility of convoking a "Ukrainian American Diet." The project was outlined by Dr. Semen Demydchuk. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to form a Pre-parliamentary Committee, headed by Dr. Volodymyr Simenovych, and to convene a "Ukrainian Diet in the United States" on October 30, 1915. The Diet assembled at the scheduled date, and as a result of the debates a Federation of Ukrainians in the United States was formed in place of the former Ukrainian National Council. According to the minutes of the proceedings, 396 Ukrainian organizations were represented at the session of the Diet. The Federation was gradually taken over by leftist elements led by Ivan Ardan, Nicholas Tsehlynsky, and Myroslav Sichynsky, even though Dr. V. Simenovych continued as president. Thus, while the National Council was a representative body of central institutions, the Federation became an organization in itself.

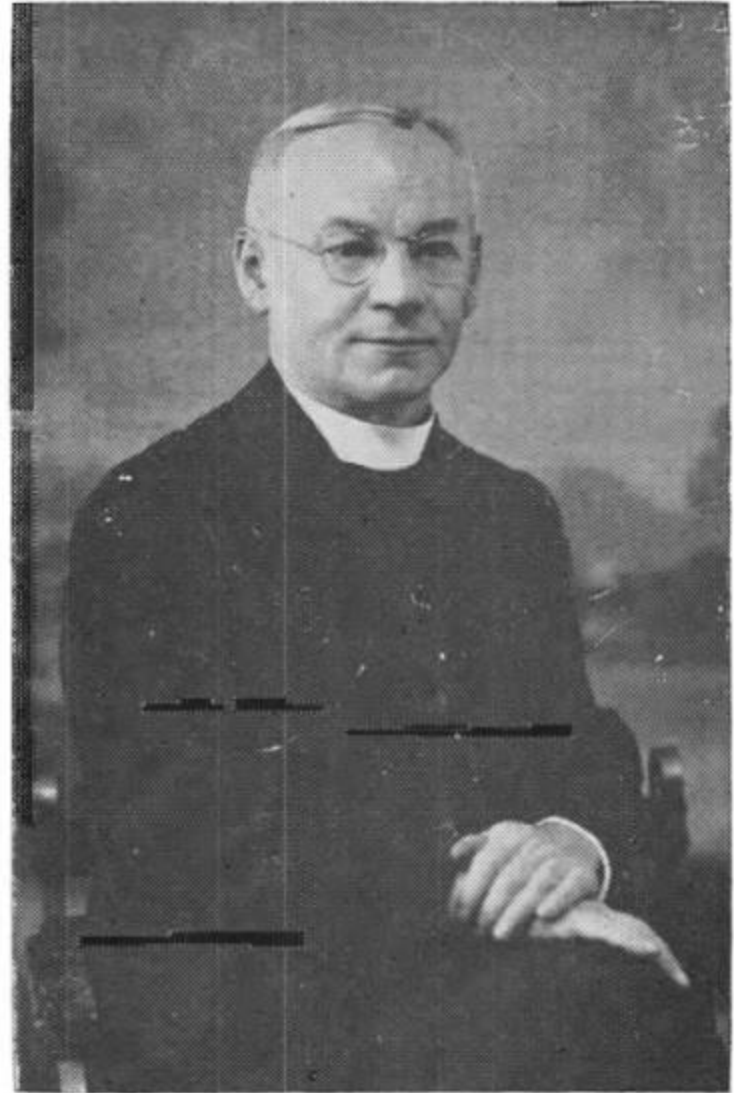
After one year, the Federation began to fall apart. The UNA left it on November 2, 1916, following the decision of the UNA Supreme Assembly taken at its annual meeting on October 9-11. In announcing its withdrawal from the Federation the UNA stated that "the Federation failed to carry out the most important resolutions of the Ukrainian Diet, in spite of repeated demands by the representatives of the UNA," that "some members of the Federation's Executive Board tried to use their positions for their own or their party's objectives," and that "a considerable number of the Federation's Executive Board members adopted an unmistakably hostile attitude toward the UNA, its press organ *Svoboda*, and individual members of the UNA Supreme Assembly . . ." Among other organizations which left the Federation at the same time or even earlier were the Union of Brotherhoods, eastern Ukrainians, the Haidamak group, and several others. The Providence and the National Aid associations, as well as others, never joined the Federation. The Ukrainian National Council was re-established at a meeting held in

New York City on October 25-26, and it was immediately joined by representatives of the UNA, the Providence Association, and the Union of Brotherhoods.

At this time, a new internal crisis began to develop within the UNA. It is interesting to note that in its initial stages the Ukrainian National Association, which was actually founded by "radical priests" and a handful of dedicated pioneers, had to wage a bitter struggle against the elements of conservative retrogression. And now, when various "progressive" and extreme leftist elements appeared on the scene, the UNA again waged a struggle for the preservation of balance within the Ukrainian community and adherence to the national-democratic-liberal course inherent in the mentality of the Ukrainian people and consistent with the mainstream of the American political thought. Much like the retrogressive forces in earlier days, the "progressive," and later "pink," elements launched a vicious campaign against the UNA, charging that it "has been again taken over by the priests," etc. Yet in spite of these difficulties the UNA continued its diversified activity in all areas of the Ukrainian community life. To slanderous and empty words the UNA always replied with generosity and plain hard work. Countering one such stream of lies, the UNA Supreme Assembly confined itself to a brief summary of its contributions for various national causes in the past five years. Published in the first issue of *Svoboda* for 1917, the report read as follows:

"The Ukrainian National Association is fully aware of its duties and responsibilities in respect to the Ukrainian people... The Ukrainian National Association and *Svoboda* have always been guided by the interests of the Ukrainian people. They always held high the Ukrainian national banner and fought with equal vehemence against all enemies of the Ukrainian people—against the Austrian and Russian regimes, against the Polish oppressors, and against our own meddlers. The UNA and *Svoboda* have always defended truth, even if they had to suffer for it. Our organization has always contributed generously to national causes in the Old Country. So as not to be accused of bragging, let us cite a few examples from the past five years. For the *Ridna Shkola* Society the UNA donated \$3,000 and collected an additional \$3,676.61, thus giving a total of \$6,676.61; the Fund for the Victims of Famine—the UNA donated \$100, collected \$4,703.05, total sum—\$4,803.05; the Fund for the Liberation of Ukraine (prior to the formation of the Federation)—the UNA contributed \$500, collected \$24,285.08, total sum—\$24,785.08; various funds established by Sichynsky—the UNA contributed \$2,500, collected \$811.71, total sum—\$3,311.71; the UNA contributed and collected a total of \$919.57 for the Ivan Franko Fund; the UNA contribution to the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen Fund was \$978.89..."

Supported by the UNA, the Ukrainian Council launched a vigorous fund-raising campaign for the cause of Ukraine's liberation and assistance to the Ukrainian war victims. Leading the Council's drive was the Rev. Peter Poniatyshyn, who in 1916 took over the administration of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese in the United States following Bishop Ortynsky's death. Among the most significant achievements of the Council and Father Poniatyshyn personally were: the proclamation of a "Ukrainian Day" in the United States by President Wilson, numerous intercessions with the U.S. Government in behalf of the Ukrainian cause including a meeting with President Wilson, Congressional resolutions calling for independence and unification of all Ukrainian lands, participation of a Ukrainian delegation at the Paris Peace Conference. A more detailed description of this truly amazing activity can be found in the memoirs of Father Poniatyshyn, published in the *Svoboda Jubilee Almanac* for 1953.



Rev. Peter Poniatyshyn,
Administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic
Diocese, 1916-24, one of the leading reli-
gious and civic figures in the history of
the UNA and the Ukrainian American
community.

This was indeed a stormy period in the history of mankind. The old political order was toppling over and on its ruins a new era was dawning in which Ukraine sought to secure a place as a free and independent nation. A wave of burning enthusiasm stirred Ukrainians on both sides of the ocean. Ever mindful of their duties and responsibilities as citizens of their adopted country, the United States of America, sacrificing their sons to ensure victory for America, purchasing bonds of the National Freedom Loan, giving wholehearted support to the American Red Cross and all other national and social actions, — the Ukrainian Americans, led by the UNA, did everything in their power to help the Ukrainian people in their national struggle for freedom and independence. To be sure, internal

strife and disagreement did affect the efforts, causing unnecessary delays and protractions. And here again the UNA showed its magnanimity, patience, determination, and willingness to overcome the differences and attain the indispensable unity of purpose and effort. It cannot go unnoticed that in spite of the fact that it was the UNA which furnished ideas, money, and personnel, and did virtually all of the work involved—it never sought to capitalize on it nor derive any special advantages for itself. On the contrary, the UNA leadership felt that it would serve the common cause to maintain unity and solidarity in all endeavors, even if some of those whom the UNA tried to “unite” caused more harm than good.

It was not much different now. In spite of attacks, slanders, and accusations by the pseudo-socialist camp, the Ukrainian National Association strove toward unity and consolidation of all forces organized into a single representative body. As a result of these efforts, a Ukrainian National Committee was formed on November 23, 1918, headed by Father Poniatyshyn with Volodymyr Lototsky acting as secretary. The leftist elements led by Myroslaw Sichynsky refused to join the Committee and persisted in their opposition. Presiding over the meeting at which the establishment of the Ukrainian National Committee had been decided upon was Roman Slobodian, a young and energetic leader who later became supreme treasurer of the UNA, retaining that office until the present time.

Even though the function of representation was carried on at that time by organizations created on the initiative of and supported by the UNA, notably the Ukrainian National Council, the Federation of Ukrainians in the United States, the Ukrainian Council, and the Ukrainian National Committee, — the Ukrainian National Association continued to promote independent action in support of the Ukrainian struggle for liberation. Thus, when the Ukrainian Military Congress convened in Kiev in June 1917, called on the Central *Rada* to break relations with Russia and proceeded with the formation of an independent Ukrainian state, the Ukrainian Council of America sent a telegram to Prof. Michael Hrushevsky, which read as follows:

“All Ukrainians organized in the Ukrainian Council of America send their warmest greetings to the fighters for freedom of Ukraine, assembled at the Congress in Kiev. We are ready to sacrifice our lives for the freedom of Ukraine. Do not rest until Ukraine is free, until the light of truth shines brightly, until the downtrodden and the oppressed can pray in freedom.”



Banner headline in "Svoboda" announces establishment of the independent Ukrainian National Republic.

At the same time, 100,000 *karbovantsi* were sent to Prof. Hrushevsky as a contribution for the Ukrainian war victims. The UNA also sent a telegram to Prof. Hrushevsky which contained the following message:

"Sincere greetings to all delegates to the Congress. Hold high the banner of free Ukraine, so dear to us all, in spite of boundaries and seas that separate the sons of the great Ukrainian family. Onward with courage, Ukraine must be one and free!"

At a later time, the money sent to the Central *Rada* received special mention—and interpretation—in Soviet "historical" works. In 1957, the Historical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR published a book by one R. H. Symonenko, titled *Imperialist Policy of the USA with Regard to Ukraine in 1917-1918*. The author mentions (pp. 99 and 298) that the American government supported the "Ukrainian counterrevolution" and cites as evidence the 100,000 *karbovantsi* sent to the Central *Rada* through the Mechanic Metal Bank in New York. Of course, the author does not mention the fact that this sum consisted of small contributions of Ukrainian workers and members of the UNA in the United States.

How did the Central *Rada* use the money? Dr. Walter Gallan, former officer of the Austrian army who was at that time a prisoner of war in a Russian camp, states that part of the money was used for purchasing Russian graycoats for Ukrainian prisoners who then used them in escaping from the Russian camp. The escapees, including Dr. Gallan, eventually joined the Ukrainian units and took part in military operations during the war of Ukrainian liberation.



Front page of "Svoboda," announcing unification of all Ukrainian lands into a sovereign and independent state.

In this turbulent period the UNA held its 14th convention in Harrisburg, Pa., in October 1917. A special letter was sent to President Wilson, expressing loyalty and support, and asking the President to do everything in his power to bring about a "just solution of the Ukrainian question." Also, a message was sent to the Central *Rada* in Kiev, its President and Secretary General, expressing best wishes "of success in the struggle for the attainment of freedom for Ukraine." Again, thousands of dollars were contributed by the UNA and its membership for various causes and activities in Ukraine. The Ukrainian National Committee, which was engaged in vigorous efforts at home and abroad in connection with the peace conference and renewed threats to the young Ukrainian state, received a contribution of \$5,000 from the UNA in May 1919. It was also at this time that the UNA Supreme Assembly sent a message of greetings to Chief Otaman Simon Petliura, and telegrams to Washington and Paris protesting the renewed Polish and Russo-Bolshevik claims to Ukrainian territory.

UNA CONVENTIONS IN THE PERIOD OF GREAT CRISES

There were four conventions in the third stage of the UNA's development, which coincided with the period of great crises (1910-1920). Each of these conventions played a decisive role in the continued growth of the UNA. Some of the more significant events that took place at the conventions have already been discussed. We shall review them briefly again for the sake of record and continuity.

The Eleventh Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio, from September 20 through 25, 1910, with 202 delegates in attendance. Presiding over the convention was the Rev. L. Levytsky, while M. Poliak and P. Kuryliuk served as secretaries. Also present at the convention was Bishop S. Ortynsky, both as a delegate and the UNA's honorary member and spiritual director.

The eleventh convention was important in that it adopted the change of the organization's name from the "Ruthenian National Association" to the "Greek-Catholic Ruthenian Association."

The recording secretary's report indicated that the UNA had 14,430 adult and 1,767 juvenile members. The financial secretary reported that the total assets of the UNA, including *Svoboda*, amounted to \$100,388.96.

It was decided that 12 pages of *Svoboda* would be printed in Ukrainian and 8 pages in the Slovak language (Latin alphabet); that the editors of *Svoboda* and the range of their salaries would be designated by the Supreme Assembly. The UNA was to join the Slovak Immigration Home in New York City at an annual fee of \$500.

It was also decided that the delegates would make a voluntary collection toward a gift for Mrs. Olena Sichynsky, to be utilized eventually for the purchase of books and newspapers for M. Sichynsky. The collection brought a sum of \$212.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Dmytro Kapitula, president; Ivan Marton, vice-president; Maria Cheremshak, vice-presidentess; S. Yadlovsky and T. Labovsky, secretaries; Oleksiy Sharshon, treasurer; Ilko Moranets, organizer; the Rev. V. Balogh, spiritual moderator; auditing committee: Vasyl Hryshko, E. Hvozdyk, the Rev. V. Balogh; advisors: Ivan Glova, A. Stefanovych, I. Yalchko, S. Mytrenko, V. Levshyk, M. Dobosh; K. Kyrchiv, *Svoboda* manager.



Semen Yadlovsky,
eighth Supreme President and seventh
Secretary of the UNA

On December 12, 1910 the UNA purchased its own building.

The Supreme Assembly, at its annual meeting held for the first time in UNA's own quarters in September 1911, announced that as a result of a feeling of discontent among some delegates over the last convention's proceedings as well as the adopted change of the Association's name and subsequent agitation by the "New Association," 10 branches left the UNA completely, while the membership of 11 others were divided in their loyalty to the two organizations. It was reported that in the course of the year the UNA had lost a total of 1,016 members.

The Twelfth Convention was held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., from September 9 through September 14, 1912, with 229 delegates in attendance. The Rev. D. Khomiak presided over the convention, while A. Kril and O. Sharavarko served as secretaries. Also attending the convention was Dr. S. Demydchuk, representative of *Ridna Shkola* Society in Ukraine.

The financial and the recording secretaries' reports indicated that the assets of the UNA had increased to \$140,530.87, while the total membership was 14,917.

It was decided that the *Svoboda* editor would be elected by the convention, and that both he and the manager were to be included in the UNA Supreme Assembly.

The convention charged the Supreme Assembly with the responsibility of reorganizing the Juvenile Department, whereby the death benefit payment for members up to six years of age would be \$100 and for those between the ages of six and sixteen, \$300. Membership dues for juvenile members were designated at 25 cents per month.

An Educational Committee of seven members was formed at this convention.

The National Fund was abolished; instead the convention voted a 7-cent contribution per member to the Reserve Fund and a 3-cent contribution to the Educational Fund.

New members would be accepted regardless of their religious denominations, providing they were under 45 years of age.

The convention voted the following contributions: \$2,500 for the *Ridna Shkola* Society in Galicia; \$500 to Hungarian Ruthenia for educational purposes; \$500 to the M. Sichynsky Fund; and \$500 to the Rev. Stefanovych Fund.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Dmytro Kapitula, president; Vasyl Suvak, vice-president; Maria Bilyk, vice-presidentess; Michael Uhorchak and Semen Yadlovsky, secretaries; Olek-

siy Sharshon, treasurer; the Rev. Dmytro Khomiak, spiritual moderator; Andrew Savka, *Svoboda* manager; Osyp Stetkevych, *Svoboda* editor; auditing committee: the Rev. V. Balogh, Stephen Mylianyovych, Joseph Yalechko; advisors: Ivan Glova, M. Vaverchak, V. Kas-kiv, P. Motalo, the Rev. M. Danylovysh, and Andrew Halchak.

Dr. Semen Demydchuk, who attended the convention as "delegate of the central organizations of Galicia," delivered the following message:

"My fellow countrymen! From the Caucasus to the Carpathians, from the river Don to the Sian, throughout this vast land of ours, a strong voice can be heard that unites us all into one family. That voice calls for a Ukraine that is free and independent. This call transcends the oceans and reaches America, the land of the free, where hundreds of thousands of our brothers left earlier in search of a better life. It is this call that kindles their hearts and compels them to lead a life that is Ukrainian in content and tradition. Everything that happens in Ukraine finds immediate response among Ukrainian Americans . . . And vice-versa, all manifestations of national life here become immediately subjects of discussion in the native land . . . On the occasion of the 12th convention of the Ukrainian National Association, our oldest and largest organization, our societies in the native country have decided to send their representative here and convey through him their warmest greetings . . ."

The Supreme Executive Committee, at its first meeting in October 1912, appropriated \$2,000 to the Educational Committee.

In April 1914, the Committee decided to issue an appeal concerning the matter of assistance to the victims of famine in the Old Country.

The Thirteenth Convention was held in Buffalo, N.Y., from September 7 through September 12, 1914, with 312 delegates in attendance. Presiding over the convention was T. Talpash, while V. Hryshko and A. Shostak served as secretaries. For technical reasons, the convention designated Fr. Balogh to assist the presiding officer in conducting the sessions.

In importance this convention surpassed all others held until that time. It was at this convention that the organization's name was changed from the "Ruthenian National Association" to the "Ukrainian National Association." It abolished the system of "arbitrary assessment" and adopted, for the first time, the new system of dues according to age (in 1915) and on the basis of the National Fraternal Congress Table of Mortality. For the first time in its twenty-year history the UNA adopted a legal and purely business-like basis of operation that was conducive to its further growth and development.

In accordance with the newly adopted system, persons between the ages of 18 and 50 (males) and 18 and 40 (females) were eligible for membership in the UNA. According to the Table of Mortality, they could take out insurance for the following sums: \$100, \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$2,000 (males); \$100, \$250, \$500, \$700, and \$1,000 (females).

In addition, it was decided that each member, regardless of his or her monthly assessment, would contribute each month 17 cents to the Administrative Fund to cover administrative and *Svoboda* expenses, 10 cents to the Reserve Fund, 5 cents to the Indigent Fund, and 3 cents to the National Fund.

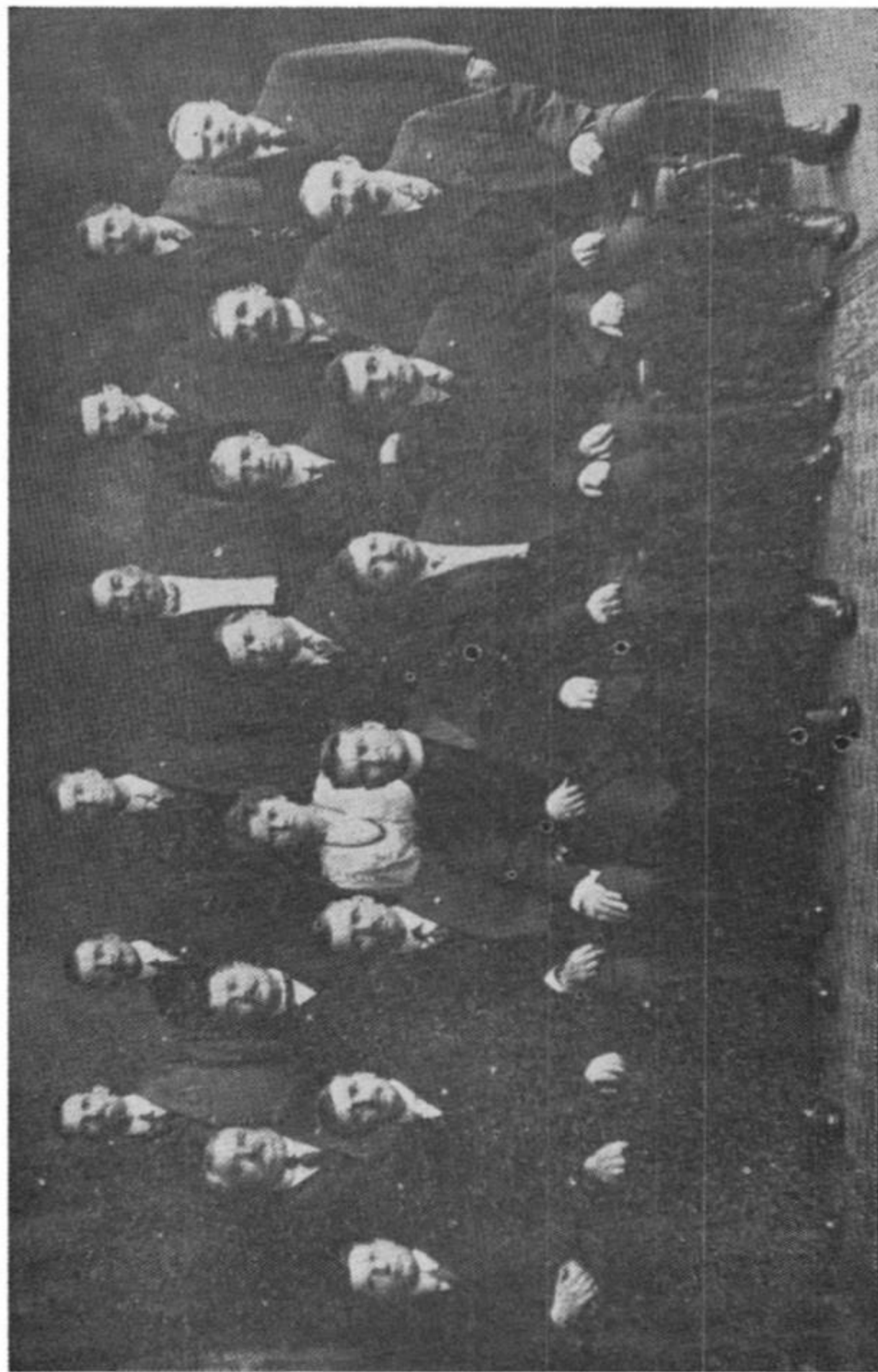
Special memoranda were to be sent to President Woodrow Wilson and the ambassadors of England, France, Russia, Germany, and Austria asking for cessation of hostilities and liberation of the Ukrainian people.

The convention appropriated \$1,000 to the Ukrainian National Council in America and \$500 for the Red Cross of the Ukrainian Relief Committee in Vienna.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Dmytro Kapitula, president; Ivan Vaverchak, vice-president; Maria Bilyk, vice-presidentess; M. Uhorchak and S. Yadlovsky, secretaries; Oleksiy Sharshon, treasurer; Andrew Savka, *Svoboda* manager; Osyp Stetkevych, *Svoboda* editor; auditing committee: the Rev. V. Balogh,



Dr. Semen Demydchuk,
 delegate of the "Ridna Shkola" Society to the 12th Convention of the UNA in 1912, organizer of the first Ukrainian Diet in America, long-time associate editor of "Svoboda," and prominent Ukrainian American leader (d. Sept. 21, 1965).



UNA Supreme Assembly elected by the 13th Convention in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1914. First row, left to right: S. Yadlovisky, A. Sharshon, D. Kapitula, Fr. Spolitzkeyvych, I. Vaverchak, M. Uhorchak, A. Savka; second row, I. Glova, V. Levchyk, Maria Bilyk, J. Pavchak, V. Lototsky, D. Andreiko, N. Rosolovych; third row, O. Stetkevych, J. Senchyna, A. Stefanovych, N. Vaverchak, V. Hryshko, S. Melnyk.

Vasyl Levchyk, Julian Pawchak; advisors: Ivan Glova, Andrew Stefanovych; Vasyl Hryshko, Nicholas Vaverchak, Teodosiy Talpash, and Stephen Melnyk.

The recording secretary reported that the UNA had a total of 20,549 adult and 4,786 juvenile members.

The Supreme Assembly, at its annual meeting of October 1915, voted a contribution of \$255 to the Diet Committee in New York.

At the October 1916 annual meeting the supreme president reported that the Ukrainian National Council in America, formation of which was approved and supplemented at the UNA 13th convention, collected a total of \$24,785.05 to the Fund for the Liberation of Ukraine.

The money was allocated as follows: \$21,650 was sent to J. Romanchuk in Vienna for war widows and orphans; \$575 was sent to Dr. V. Okhrymovych for assistance to Ukrainians deported to Siberia; \$2,491.54 for English language publications in the United States. Subtracted from the original sum, this left a total of \$68.54.

It was further reported that the Ukrainian National Council collected \$987.69 to the Sich Riflemen Fund, of which \$750 was sent to the Riflemen's Administration for care of the soldier's orphans and \$150 to the Sich Riflemen's orphanage. This left \$87.69 of the original sum.

Both remaining sums were handed over to the Federation of Ukrainians in the United States.

The Supreme Executive Committee at its annual meeting held in April 1917, decided that a sum of \$1,000 be donated to the war victims fund on the occasion of the proclamation of the "Ukrainian Day" in America.

It was also decided that the UNA join the American Red Cross (\$100 annual fee).

The Fourteenth Convention was held in Harrisburg, Pa., from October 22 through October 27, 1917, with 118 delegates in attendance. Presiding over the convention was C. Kyrchiv; T. Yavorsky and S. Kalakula served as secretaries.

The officers' reports showed that the organization went through a period of change and sustained great losses in membership. On the other hand, the UNA showed a substantial increase in assets. Far from offsetting the painful losses in membership, it was nevertheless a great step forward which enabled the UNA to develop into a financially strong organization. This upward climb, which actually began in 1914, extended in subsequent years to all other areas of activity, including the organizational sector.

In his report the treasurer stated that the total assets of the UNA in 1917 amounted to \$432,012.56, thus showing an increase of \$186,508.55 over the three-year period since the adoption of the new system of dues.

The recording secretary's report showed a total of 9,822 adult members and 1,913 juvenile members.

The age limit for new members was raised to 55 and 50, for males and females respectively.

It was resolved that conventions of the UNA be held every three years; that the convention delegates' expenses be paid by the UNA; and that the presiding officers at the convention be elected by the delegates. Until now they had been appointed by the supreme president.

The convention decided on the use of a direct referendum in matters which for various reasons could not be resolved in the course of the sessions.

The UNA Supreme Assembly was to consist of eighteen members, three of whom had to be women. The Educational Committee was abolished and its functions transferred to the Executive Committee.

Contribution to the Reserve Fund was lowered from the previous 10 cents; instead, a 5 cent contribution to the Convention Fund was instituted.

It was decided to send a letter to President Wilson, expressing loyalty and asking for his personal intercession in bringing about a just solution of the Ukrainian problem.

Congratulatory messages were to be sent to the Ukrainian Central *Rada*, its President and Secretary General, expressing support and encouragement in the struggle for the attainment of freedom and independence for Ukraine.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Constantine Kyrchiv, president; Andrew Stefanovych, vice-president; Maria Bilyk, vice-presidentess; M. Uhorchak and S. Yadlovsky, secretaries; Vasyl Levchyk, treasurer; Andrew Savka, *Svoboda* manager; Osyp Stetkevych, *Svoboda* editor; auditing committee: Dmytro Kapitula, Nicholas Rosolovych, Oleksa Tkach; advisors: Roman Slobodian, Gregory Kryvoviaz, Vasyl Hryshko, Michael Petrivsky, Omelian Rekrut, Ivan Pelensky, Anna Derunda, and Melania Kravchyshyn.

Supreme recording secretary M. Uhorchak resigned from his office in July, 1918; he was replaced by S. Mylianovych.

The Supreme Assembly, at its annual meeting held in May 1919, voted a contribution of \$5,000 to the Ukrainian National Committee in New York.



Dr. Luke Myshuha,
head of Mission of the Western Ukrainian National Republic in
Washington, ninth Editor-in-Chief of "Svoboda," prominent leader
of the Ukrainian American community since World War I until
his death in 1955.

It was decided to send a congratulatory message to Simon Petliura, and separate letters of protest to Paris and Washington.

The Supreme Assembly, at its annual meeting in May 1920, decided to send \$2,000 to the Ukrainian Citizens Committee in Lviv and Vienna. The money was to be taken from the \$5,000 originally designated for the Ukrainian National Committee in New York.

IV. UNA BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

1920-1939

THE FIGHTING IS OVER — THE STRUGGLE MUST GO ON

In the aftermath of World War I and the unsuccessful struggle for Ukrainian liberation, a feeling of sad disillusionment pervaded the Ukrainian community in America. But there was no letdown, no hopelessness, no despair. Just as their brothers in the native land, the Ukrainian Americans refused to give up, and continued the struggle—some with arms, others with money and ideas—for the restoration of the hard-won but short-lived freedom and political independence. They responded generously to various fund drives, organized rallies, sent memoranda and letters of protest in constantly seeking to attract world public opinion to the plight of Ukraine. As in previous years, the UNA stood at the helm of all actions. The 15th convention, held in Philadelphia in October 1920, resolved to send a memorandum to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State, protesting against the annexation of western Ukrainian lands by Poland. The convention also voted a \$5,000 contribution in relief aid to the Ukrainian war victims. It was also at this convention that a resolution was adopted unanimously calling for the merger of all Ukrainian fraternal benefit societies in America, and a special committee was appointed to study the matter and recommend ways of implementing the fusion. But until the present day the merger has not been effectuated, no longer being a matter of the UNA's concern alone. By yet another decision of the convention, *Svoboda* was changed into a daily.

In the meantime, a number of official representatives of the Ukrainian government began arriving in America along with the first political refugees. Dr. Longine Tsehelsky, representing the government of the Western Ukrainian National Republic (ZUNR), was among the first arrivals here. He established a mission in Washington, which was later taken over by Dr. Luke Myshuha, sent here by the government of Western Ukrainian National Republic in mid-1921. Upon his arrival, a largescale fund drive, the National

Defense Loan, was conducted here for a period of two years (end of 1923) that netted a total of \$138,500 for the needs of the ZUNR government-in-exile.

Again the need arose for a central representative organization which would assume the leadership of the Ukrainian American community and pursue the efforts for the cause of Ukrainian liberation. At about the same time first news reached America of the Polish atrocities in Western Ukraine, and the famine, terror, and persecution suffered by Ukrainians under the Bolshevik occupation. In this connection, the *Svoboda* daily of May 27, 1922, carried the first appeal of the United Ukrainian Organizations of America signed by representatives of the Ukrainian National Association, the Providence Association, Ukrainian National Aid Association, Union of Brotherhoods, the Sich Organization, and the Ukrainian League of American Veterans. A month later, on June 30, 1922, a meeting of these representatives in Philadelphia decided on the establishment of the United Organizations of America with functions similar to those later assumed by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The first congress was held in Philadelphia, late in October of 1922, at which time this representative organization was formally instituted.

The initial act of protest against the enslavement of Ukraine gradually assumed the form of material assistance to various institutions in Western Ukraine, since Soviet Ukraine was already separated from the rest of the world by the Iron Curtain. The Ukrainian American community, led by the United Ukrainian Organizations of America and strongly supported by the UNA and *Svoboda*, became one of the mainstays of the Ukrainian revolutionary movement in the native land, led originally by the Ukrainian Military Organization (UVO) and later by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). And it was no mere accident that the precious American dollar was often referred to as "myshuha" in the parlance of Ukrainian revolutionaries.



Omelian Reviuk

ON THE ROAD TO PROGRESS

In the period between the two World Wars the UNA continued its work along the same lines that determined the organization's course of development since its early beginnings. The only difference was that by now the UNA had developed into a powerful organiza-



Roman Slobodian,
outstanding pioneer-leader and oldest, in years of service, Supreme
Officer of the UNA. Since 1933, Supreme Treasurer.

TO OUR YOUTH.

With this number we begin the publication of a regular weekly supplement to the "Swedish" to be known as the "Ukrainian Weekly," and to be devoted exclusively to the benefit of the American-Ukrainian youth.

The Ukrainian National Association has undertaken to bear the main cost of this publication, in order to give our youth the opportunity of having an exclusive organ of its own; written in its own style and language; wherein it can more effectively express its thoughts and ideas; receive a better understanding of each other, and perhaps point out those paths of endeavor which shall lead to a more and better life.

The "Ukrainian Weekly" is for the youth. The youth alone shall be its readers. Its voice alone shall be heard here. And all that we desire from our readers, in order to continue this organ as well as just a little good will and co-operation. It is necessary that the youth read it. It is necessary, further, that the youth become interested in it and give it their support, so that it shall grow and flourish to the point wherein it will enhance every phase of the life of our American-Ukrainian youth.

The Ukrainian National Association is prepared to cheerfully make every further expenditure in order to enlarge this organ to twice and one-third its present size, provided however, that the youth desire it. And in order to achieve this goal, the youth need not only read this weekly, it must also contribute articles to it. The youth must seek to become members of the Ukrainian National Association and in such measure to make this organization, which with the passage of time shall pass into the hands, hearts and homes.

This is not the first venture of its kind made by the Ukrainian National Association in its endeavor for our youth. During the last years of its existence the Association has contributed most liberal amounts for the subsidizing of our youth, both in scientific and in literary. The Association publishes booklets and newspapers for our youth in the Ukrainian language and also in the Ukrainian and English languages, and during the last years even published the Ukrainian Periodic Magazine. In addition, the Association incorporated English contributions to our youth, the "Swedish," which proved to be of great benefit to our youth.

All of these activities that the Ukrainian National Association, in its effort to help our youth, has gone more than half way to meet it. It is true, of course, that perhaps the method of approach by the other generation was not the proper one at times, but if our aim is to succeed and succeed by itself. If any activities were made, there is still time to remedy those, if any were made, let us please learn. To state that patients will be one of the tasks of this organ.

In youth our dreams and hopes, that is what we need. We want the youth that dream, and then give to work and make the dream come true. We want the broad mass of youth, and that energetic fighting spirit of our Communist generation.

We are living in a highly complex world which has built upon science and science, a world where nothing is impossible, where our needs are satisfied by means of atomic energy, and where the dreams of yesterday are the realities of today. Such is the spirit that we, the American-Ukrainian youth, need. Such is the spirit which shall raise high our Ukrainian name and our efforts here in America.

OPPORTUNITY.

For the past thirty-five years Ukrainian immigrants in America have been building up the Ukrainian National Association, together with its organ, "Swedish," the first newspaper edited in the Ukrainian language in America.

From a humble beginning the Ukrainian National Association has grown during these years into a substantial three million dollar fraternal organization, with thirty-five thousand members and the "Swedish," from a weekly paper to the largest Ukrainian daily in America.

— Coincidental with this growth of the Ukrainian National Association and its "Swedish," has been the growth of the younger generation of American-Ukrainians.

Today the paths of these two elements, the Association and the American-Ukrainian youth, have met. The time has come when this youth must begin to take over the reins of the Association from its founders. It must learn to assume the business as well as the benefits of its parents.

That is the principal problem before us today—the problem of our youth taking over and continuing the tasks of the older generation.

For a long time we have been calling and we still urge the youth to take a greater interest in the Association, to become more active in it, to gradually take over the reins not only of the organization, but also of all local branches as well.

Our organization is so constructed that it is not able to be run by its members. In order to take a hand in the running of this organization, one must be a member of it. In our organization membership coupled with activity can build the organization to greater and better heights. This is what young American-Ukrainians should realize before they can take over the reins of our or for that matter, any other organization.

Let you, despite any earlier misgivings, "Swedish" say that it is not given a chance to do its part. That is a great loss for the "Swedish" is already there for the taking. It only requires some personal initiative and hard work.

Again, a chance or opportunity is not a guarantee of success. Opportunity gives material work, spirit, energy. Duty, hard work and unswerving efforts lead to recognition and only reward our people, but other people as well. Therefore, before our youth can take over the reins of our institutions, it must first show proof of its ability to do so.

Therefore, begin this long sought for change by overhauling Ukrainian in America, the Ukrainian National Association, with the cooperation and help of its Junior Department, to become the "Ukrainian Weekly," edited in the Ukrainian language. This paper shall serve as a medium through which the American-Ukrainian youth can build up not only the Ukrainian National Association, but also institutions of educational, industrial and cultural nature.

I am sincerely convinced that on the highest understanding and interest of the young American-Ukrainians, the "Ukrainian Weekly" shall grow and flourish. I, as the president of the Ukrainian National Association, with the paper the best of wishes.

E. Hruschko, President of the Ukrainian National Association.

PROGRESS OF UKRAINIANS IN AMERICA.

Approximately 80% of all the Ukrainians in America, other than those born here, were born in Western Europe, which prior to the World War belonged to that continent. It is also noticeable that many of these immigrants came to America through and only to its main modern manufacturing plant.

And yet, the earliest Ukrainian immigrants to America, who came from Ukraine under the name of "Cossacks," who arrived during the 17th and 18th centuries, were the first to come to America through the "Cossack" route. When the first immigrants came to America, they were to make the long journey to America through the "Cossack" route.

of 1848, and of the subsequent "gold rush."

The first Ukrainian immigrants to America, however, did not begin until 1870, and did not become an appreciable population until 1880. Beginning with 1870, more Ukrainians began to come to the country in ever increasing numbers, which in 1900 reached the 100,000 mark.

The outbreak of the World War, however, put a stop to this flow. Ukrainian immigration here has been down to the point that, in 1920, there were only 100,000 Ukrainians in America. This was a sharp decline from the 1,000,000 Ukrainians who were in America in 1914.

Ukrainian immigration to America has been in a general decline, but it is noticeable that the number of Ukrainians in America is now the largest of any nationality.

The number of Ukrainians in America has been increasing since 1914, and it is noticeable that the number of Ukrainians in America is now the largest of any nationality. This is due to the fact that the number of Ukrainians in America is now the largest of any nationality.

near the very close of the last century and, among its work was done by the "Cossack" route. The migration here consisted mainly of Russians, Poles, and Ukrainians. A considerable number of Ukrainians immigrated here from the "Cossack" route, but probably not more than twenty per cent of the total number known as the "Cossack" route.

The mass which comprised the Ukrainian immigrants in America, however, was not the "Cossack" route, but the "Cossack" route. This was the main source of the Ukrainian immigrants in America, and it is noticeable that the number of Ukrainians in America is now the largest of any nationality.

Front page of the first issue of "The Ukrainian Weekly" which appeared on October 5, 1933.

tion with a long tradition and years of experience which greatly enhanced its influence, prestige, and popularity. Of course, in this as in other periods of UNA history, new organizations appeared on the scene with specific functions and for specific purposes, but the UNA and its dedicated membership remained the basis of all Ukrainian organized life in America. It goes without saying that a number of organizations came into being with but one purpose in mind — to undermine the UNA, but their activity was of extremely short duration and they usually disappeared as quickly as they emerged. Just as the Russophiles, the Magyarophiles, and other backward elements before World War I, the communists after the war sought to disrupt the unity of the Ukrainian national community. Their unwitting allies were often those discontented groups left behind by the development of Ukrainian national concepts.



Stephen Shumeyko,
first and long-time Editor of
"The Ukrainian Weekly," former
president of the Ukrainian Con-
gress Committee of America, and
prominent civic leader (d. August
12, 1962)

By virtue of its active participation in public affairs and sustained efforts in behalf of Ukrainian liberation, the UNA acquired internal strength and stability as a business organization of vast potential. Having overcome the great crisis precipitated by the adoption of the modern system of insurance, the UNA was well on the way to becoming one of the most progressive American organizations of its kind, keeping constantly abreast of the times and utilizing modern innovations in the field of life insurance. The man who played a prominent role in the further growth of the UNA was Dmytro Halychyn, elected to the post of supreme secretary at the Detroit convention in 1933. Halychyn, like Dr. Myshuha and Dr. Gallan, belonged to the "new generation," that is, those new immigrants who took an active part in the armed struggle for Ukraine's liberation.

Another problem which confronted the UNA in the immediate postwar period was that of the rapidly increasing ranks of the American-born Ukrainians. The UNA spared no effort in trying to instill the spirit of Ukrainian heritage in this generation, and it



Some of the books published by the UNA in the English language.

was with this objective in mind that in 1933 the UNA started publishing an English-language weekly supplement to *Svoboda*, thus contributing to the formation of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, headed by Stephen Shumeyko, long-time editor of *The Ukrainian Weekly* and prominent leader of the Ukrainian community in America.

All of the major actions pursued by the Ukrainian Americans at this time — such as the action against the Polish pacification in the 1930's, against the government-instituted famine in Soviet Ukraine, protests against American recognition of the Soviet regime, and so forth—originated with the UNA and *Svoboda*, which became a kind of unofficial Ukrainian embassy in the United States. It was also at this time that the spiritual and intellectual outlook of Ukrainian Americans began to crystallize, forming a synthesis of what is best in both the Ukrainian and American treasuries of values, ideals, and traditions.

The years between the two World Wars witness the revitalization of yet another sector of UNA's vast range of activities, namely, publication of books in the English language, intended, as in previous years, to disseminate truth and factual knowledge about Ukraine,

its people, history, culture, desires, and aspirations. In 1933 the UNA published Snovyd's *The Spirit of Ukraine*, in 1939 Hrushevsky's *A History of Ukraine*. From then on, the UNA averaged a book a year. The list of all UNA English language publications, including the monumental *Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopaedia*, published by the Toronto University Press in November of 1963, is given at the end of this book. It should be noted that in most of these books no mention is made of the fact that their publication was financed by the UNA. Usually, the UNA would commission an author (or several authors), pay him an honorarium, and cover the expenses of printing and distributing the book by an American publishing house.

Most of the books, particularly those published before 1955, were subjected to a most thorough review by Dr. Myshuha, editor-in-chief of *Svoboda*, who would then request the authors to make the necessary corrections and additions. It goes without saying that the books accomplished a great deal in disseminating truthful information about Ukraine among Americans of all walks of life. They were of immeasurable value to the advancement of the Ukrainian cause in America and the gradual elimination of ignorance, misinformation, and distorted notions about Ukraine that prevailed—and still prevail in some quarters—among the general public as well as individual persons who occupied positions of leadership and authority in various areas of American public life.

UNA contributions to various public fund drives during the period between the two World Wars increased enormously. Close to \$100,000 came from the UNA treasury alone, while contributions made separately by UNA branches and members approximated one million dollars. These funds were channelled into such actions and institutions as the liberation struggle, the *Prosvita* society, the *Ridna Shkola* society, the invalids', students', and scientific societies, political prisoners, orphanages, school dormitories, sports clubs, and many other worth-while projects.

Hardly a weekend would go by without either Dr. Myshuha, or D. Halychyn, or R. Slobodian, or some other high-ranking UNA officer appearing at a public event in this or that community, which, as a rule, would be concluded by a fund collection designated for one of the many national objectives. There was an unwritten law that *Svoboda*, edited at that time by Dr. Myshuha, would publish only such reports of public or family events as were accompanied by a list of contributions made at the time to various national causes.

The description of the interwar period in the life of the UNA and the entire Ukrainian American community would not be complete without mentioning the fact that these years were marked by

a bitter conflict between the secular leadership of the Ukrainian community and the Ukrainian Catholic church authorities. Needless to say, this conflict caused much confusion in the life of the Ukrainian community in America and wrought some deep wounds that took years to heal.

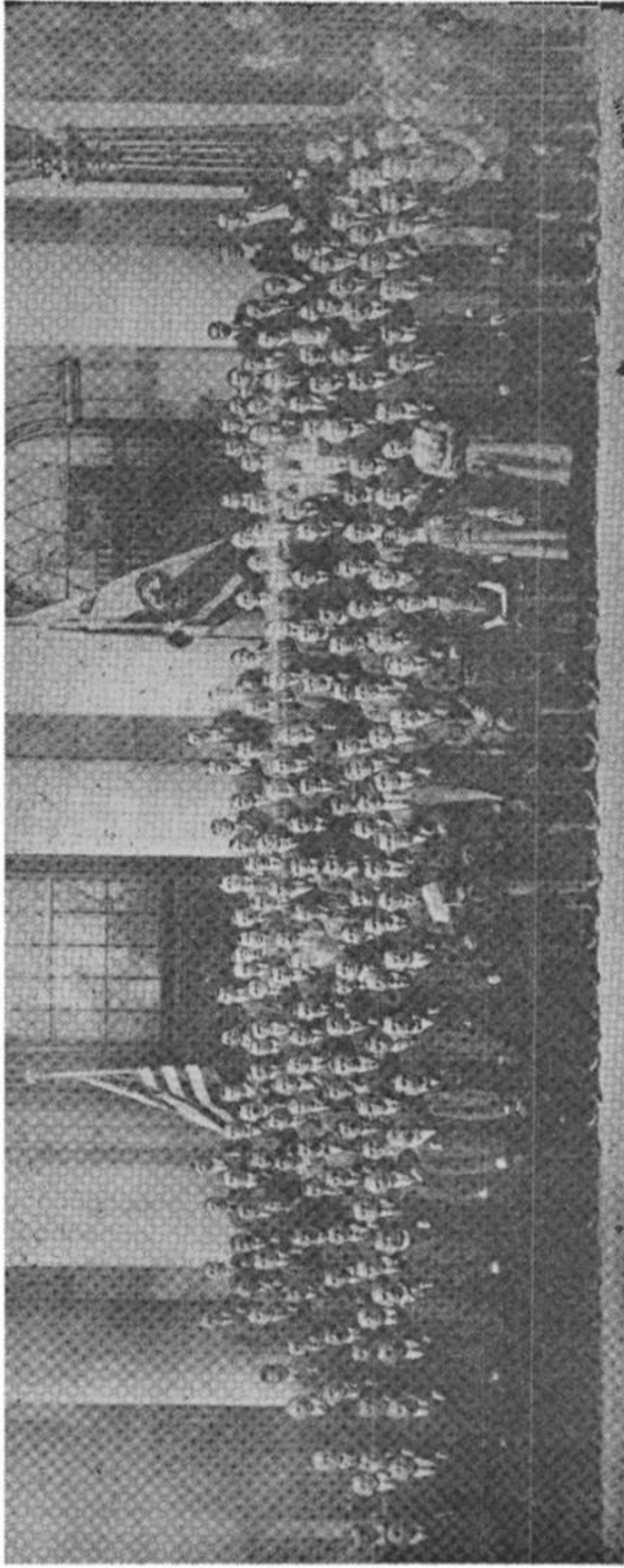
In the period between the two World Wars the UNA marked two jubilee anniversaries, the 40th in 1934 and the 45th in 1939.

UNA CONVENTIONS IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD

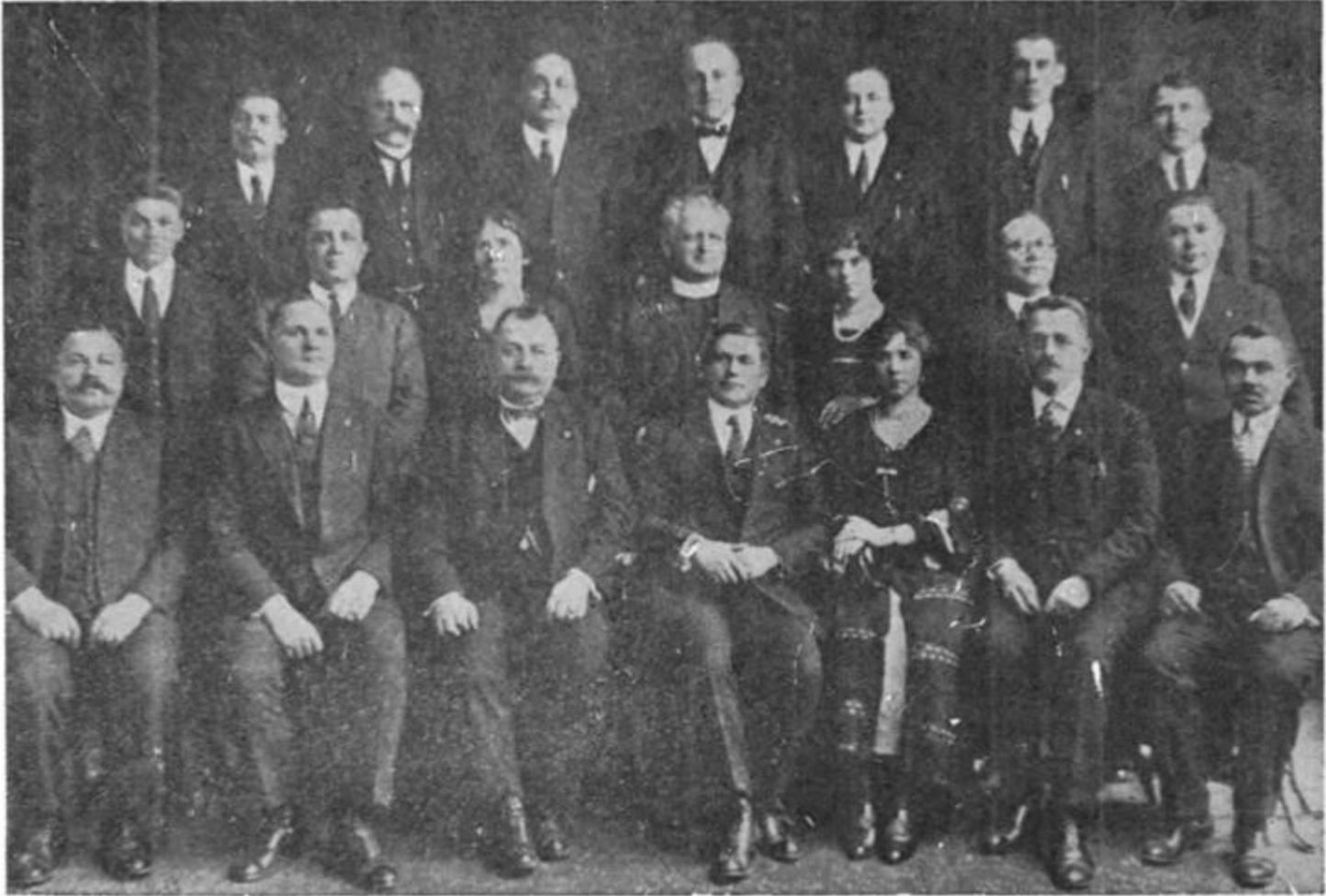
In the period from 1920 to 1939, the UNA held only five conventions, the 15th through the 19th.



Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky visits the old headquarters of the UNA and "Svoboda" in 1921. Flanking the Metropolitan are: Ivan Kashtaniuk, first left, Supreme Recording Secretary of the UNA, Maria Kyrchiv, staff worker, Semen Yadlovsky, Supreme President of the UNA. Back row, left to right, Anthony Onysyk, Roman Slobodian, Supreme Financial Secretary, Stephen Mylianovych, Former Supreme Recording Secretary, Fr. Stephen Hladky and Peter Matsiovsky, "Svoboda" employees, Constantine Kyrchiv, "Svoboda" manager.



Delegates to the 15th Convention of the UNA in Philadelphia, October 1920.



UNA Supreme Assembly 1921-25. Second from the left, front row, is Roman Slobodian, the then Supreme Financial Secretary and currently Treasurer of the UNA

The Fifteenth Convention took place in Philadelphia, Pa., from October 11 to October 16, 1920, with 199 delegates attending. O. Meshchak presided over the convention, while O. Lohyn and O. Sharavarko served as secretaries.

The supreme president reported that in May of 1920 the financial secretary S. Yadlovsky and the *Svoboda* manager A. Savka submitted their resignations because of low salaries that they had been receiving from the UNA. The Supreme Assembly refused to accept the resignations and the two men remained in their respective positions.

The total UNA membership in 1920 was 12,237, insured for a sum of \$9,583,250. The total assets of the UNA amounted to \$586,317.98. The assets of the Juvenile Department were \$16,473.55.

The convention decided that *Svoboda*, which had been appearing three times a week since 1915, would be changed into a daily. Each member would be required to pay an additional 30 cents monthly to cover the expenses of publishing the daily newspaper. An editorial board was elected, consisting of the Rev. M. Strutynsky, M. Murashko, and D. Andreiko.

The convention recommended that the Executive Committee make all the necessary changes in the Juvenile Department to guarantee its further growth.

A unanimous resolution was adopted calling for the merger of all Ukrainian fraternal benefit societies in America, and a special five-men committee was elected for this purpose (Paschak, Savchuk, Tskvir, Bratus, and Baius). In spite of the UNA committee's efforts, the merger was not realized because of the unfavorable response from other fraternal societies.

The transformation of *Svoboda* into a daily newspaper became effective in January 1921. The changes in the Juvenile Department, adopted by means of a referendum, went into effect as of July 1, 1921.

The convention voted a \$5,000 contribution for assistance to the war victims in Ukraine.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Semen Yadlovsky, president, Theodore Hrytsey, vice-president; Maria Olshanytska, vice-presidentess; Ivan Kashtaniuk and Roman Slobodian, secretaries; Vasyl Levchyk, treasurer; Andrew Savka, *Svoboda* manager; auditing committee: Vasyl Hasiy, Ivan Vaverchak, Stephen Mylianyovych; advisors: Constantine Kyrchiv, Michael Petrivsky, Nicholas Shevchuk, Volodymyr Yaskevych, Stephen Baius, Stephen Kudryk, Anne Stadnyk, and Maria Melnyk; *Svoboda* editorial board: the Rev. Nicholas Strutynsky, Dmytro Andreiko, and Nicholas Murashko.

At a meeting held in May 1921, the Executive Committee selected S. Yadlovsky and O. Reviuk to represent the UNA on the Ukrainian delegation which traveled to Washington and delivered a formal protest to the President and the U.S. Congress against the enslavement of Ukraine and the Polish atrocities.

In July 1921 the Executive Committee voted a \$3,000 contribution to the National Defense Loan of Galicia and issued an appeal calling for the purchase of bonds for the National Loan of the Galician Government.

In May 1922 the Executive Committee voted to join the United Ukrainian Organizations of America.

The Sixteenth Convention of the UNA was held in Rochester, New York, from April 6 through April 11, 1925, with 282 delegates attending. Omelian Reviuk presided over the convention, and O. Rekrut and V. Hryshko served as secretaries.

The supreme president reported that in 1921 the UNA hosted Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky, Bishop John Theodorovich, and the famous Ukrainian National Choir under the direction of Alexander Koshyts. The president noted UNA's outstanding efforts in the successful drive for the National Defense Loan and its decisive



Rev. V. Spolitatevych,
chairman of the UNA
Educational Committee

role in the establishment of the United Ukrainian Organizations of America.

The recording secretary's report showed that the UNA had succeeded in forming 58 new branches and that its membership had increased to 17,011 adults (insured for \$14,003,650) and 9,510 juveniles.

The financial secretary reported that from 1914 to 1925 the assets of the UNA had increased to \$1,334,415.47. The certificate reserves as given by an insurance expert was as follows: 86% in 1917, 100.6% in 1920, 106% in 1921, 117% in 1922, 114% in 1923, 117% in 1924. At that time the UNA issued only one class of insurance: Whole Life for face amounts from \$100 to \$2,000.

Long before the sixteenth convention a number of members and delegates demanded that the UNA adopt other types of life and endowment plans similar to those offered by other fraternal benefit societies. In response to the demand of its membership, the UNA adopted three new forms of insurance: 20 Year Endowment, 20 Payment Life, and Life Paid up to age 65. At the present time these plans are designated by the letters E, P, and O.

The convention also changed an earlier decision regarding the *Svoboda* editorial board, which until now had been composed of three members elected by the convention. As of now it was to consist of five members of the Supreme Executive Committee.

The new By-Laws of the Juvenile Department were approved at this convention.

The Supreme Assembly was charged with drafting a plan for the establishment of an orphanage. The matter was then to be decided by a referendum.

The convention appropriated the following sums to student dormitories of vocational and trade schools in Galicia: \$500 to the Stanyslaviv school, \$500 to the Lviv school, \$200 to the Radekhiv and Zhovkva schools, and an additional \$600 to those that would be established in other localities.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Theodore Hrytsey, president; Michael Uhorchak, vice-president; Maria Olshanytska, vice-presidentess; Ivan Kashtaniuk and Roman Slobodian, secretaries; Vasyl Levchyk, treasurer, Semen Yadlovsky, *Svoboda* manager; auditing committee: Omelian Rekrut, Onufriy Sharavar-

ko, Gregory Pypiuk; advisors: Theodore Mykhalchuk, Rev. Volodymyr Spolitakevych, Dr. Michael Klym, Michael Petrivsky, Vasyl Hryshko, Nicholas Shevchuk, Dmytro Bratus, Stephan Matchak, Anne Stadnyk, and Maria Melnyk.

At its annual meeting in February 1927, the Supreme Assembly appointed a special Orphanage Committee to work out detailed plans for a home and for the fund raising campaign. Appointed to the committee were M. Uhorchak, O. Reviuk, G. Pypiuk, and S. Matchak.

The Seventeenth Convention was held in Newark, N. J., from May 13 through May 18, 1929, with 330 delegates attending. O. Reviuk presided over the convention, while Dr. Volodymyr Klodnytsky and Stephen Hladky served as secretaries.

The reports showed that since 1925 the membership of the UNA increased by 6,831 and that its assets amounted to \$2,196,884.17. A new building had been constructed which housed the UNA and *Svoboda*, at 81 - 83 Grand Street, Jersey City N.J.

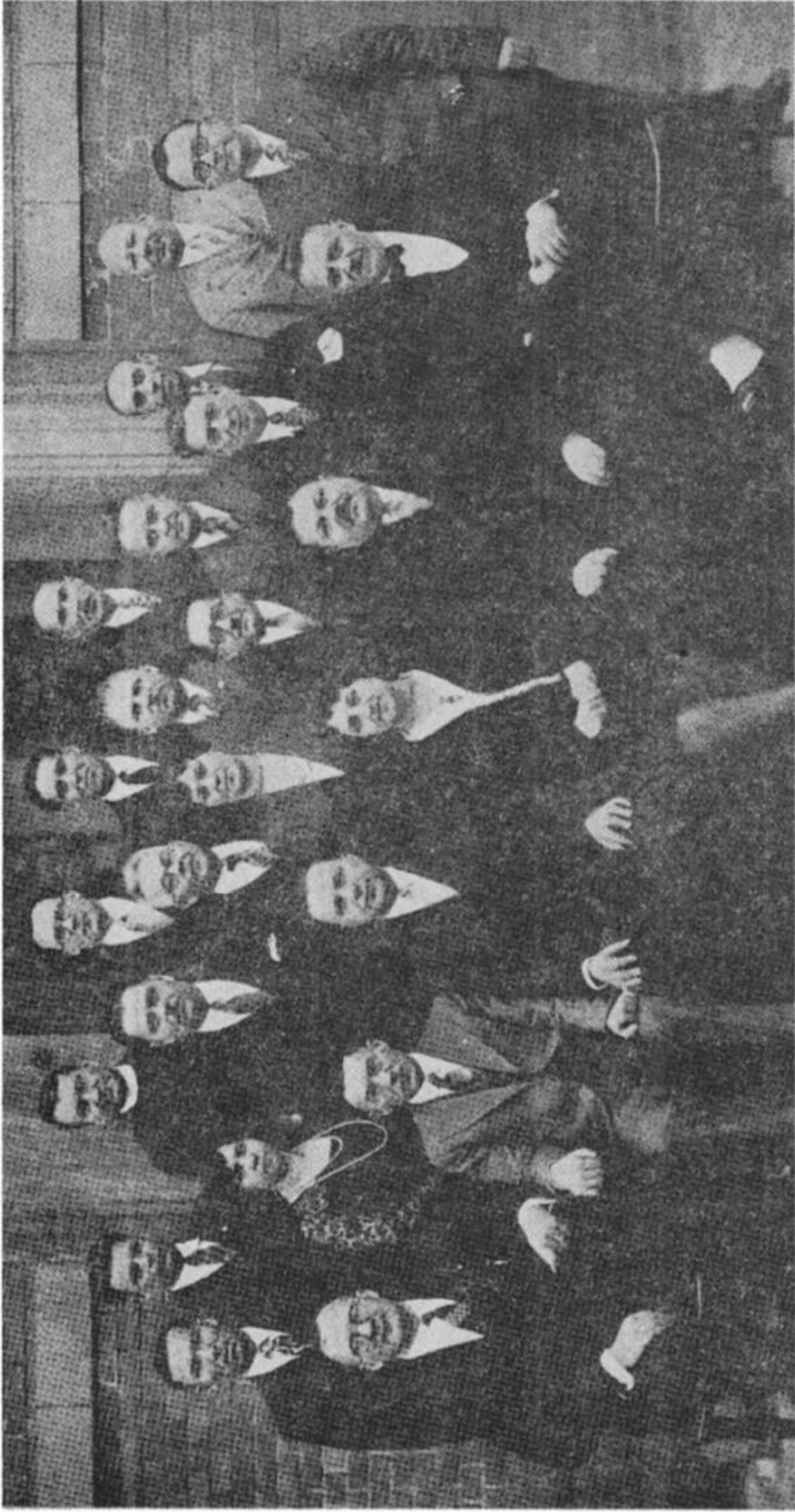
Attending the convention was Lev Yasinchuk, representative of the *Ridna Shkola* Society, who conveyed greetings in behalf of the organization and expressed gratitude for moral support and generous material assistance.

The seventeenth convention revised an earlier resolution on the election of convention delegates, extending the period of election from 30 to 60 days from the date of the Executive Committee's call for a regular convention. A branch with less than 25 members could join another small branch for the purpose of electing a delegate. If the combined membership of the two branches was 25, they would be entitled to one delegate.

The draft on the reorganization of the Juvenile Department was discussed at length. It was suggested that members of the Juvenile Department, upon attaining maturity, form their own branches, elect their officers, and learn to administer their own



Theodore Hrytsey,
ninth Supreme President of the UNA



Members of the UNA Supreme Assembly and "Svoboda" Editorial Board, 17th Convention, 1929. First row Roman Slobodian, Financial Secretary, Vasyi Hryshko, Vice-President, Nicholas Murashko, President, Julia Bavoliak, Vice-Presidentess, Wasyi Levchyk, Treasurer, Ivan Kashtaniuk, Secretary; second row, Onufriy Sharavarko, chairman of the auditing committee, Maria Rozumilo, advisor, Dr. Michael Klym, advisor, Anne Boyivka, advisor, Peter Matsiovsky, manager, Stephen Zablotsky, advisor, Gregory Pypiuk, auditor; third row, Volodymyr Kedrovsky, editor, Fr. Volodymyr Spolitatevych, advisor, Volodymyr Malevych, advisor, Theodore Mykhalchuk, advisor, Omelian Reviuk, editor, Alexander Pytliar, advisor, Paul Stadnyk, advisor, Stephen Slobodian, advisor, Dr. Volodymyr Klodnytsky, auditor, Dr. Luke Myshuha, editor.

affairs. This would facilitate the process of internal transition from the older to the younger generation, thus ensuring structural and organizational continuity. The convention recommended that the Supreme Assembly work out a plan and submit it to the branches for approval.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Nicholas Murashko, president; Vasyl Hryshko, vice-president; Julia Bavoliak, vice - presidentess, Ivan Kashtaniuk and Roman Slobodian, secretaries; Vasyl Levchyk, treasurer; Semen Yadlovsky, *Svoboda* manager; auditing committee: Dr. Volodymyr Klodnytsky, Gregory Pypiuk, Onufriy Sharavarko; advisors: Dr. Michael Klym, Volodymyr Malevych, Theodore Mykhalchuk, Stephen

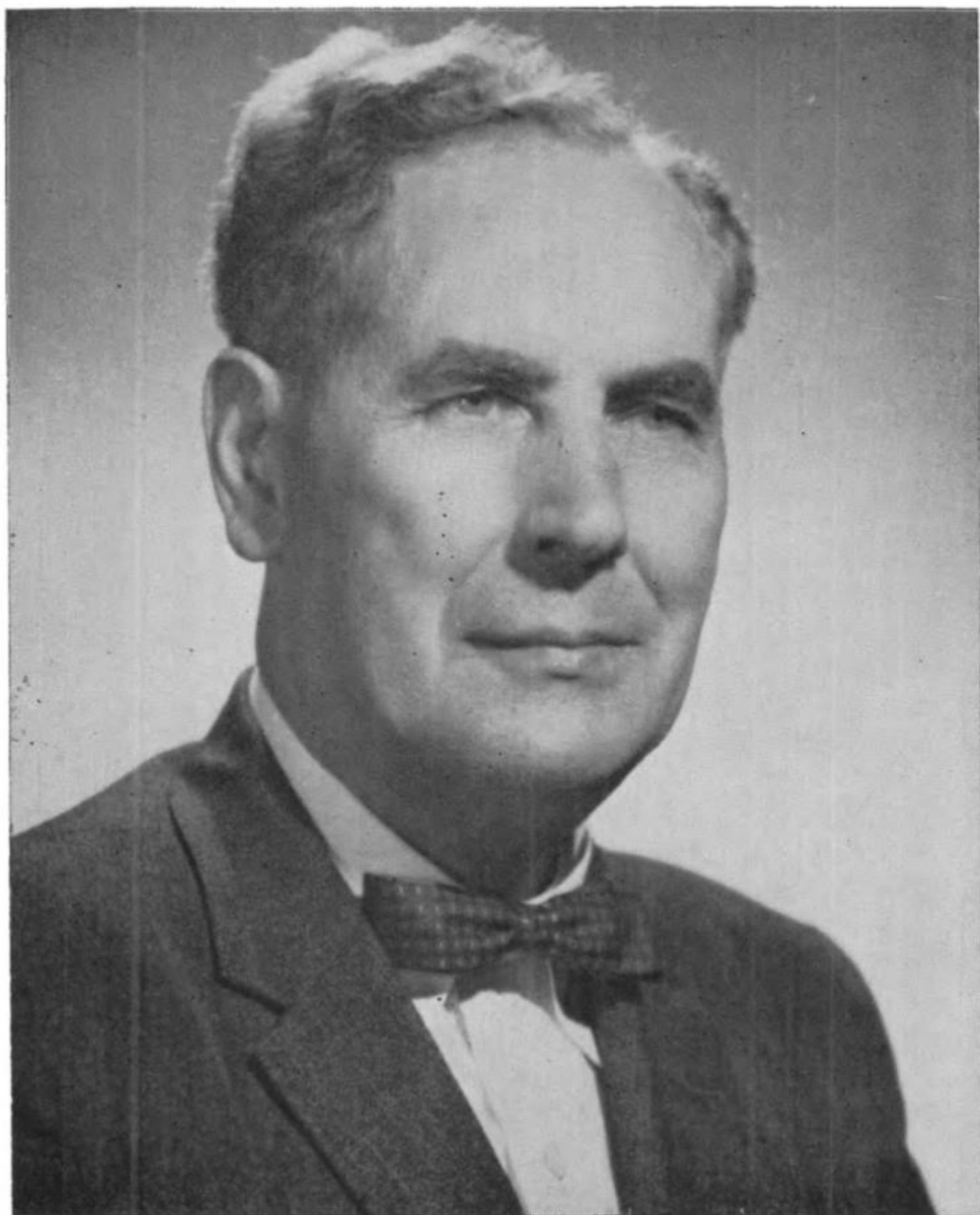


Nicholas Murashko,
tenth Supreme President of the UNA

Zablotsky, Rev. Volodymyr Spolitakevych, Alexander Pytliar, Paul Stadnyk, Stephen Slobodian, Anne Boyivka, and Maria Olshanytska.

The Eighteenth Convention was held in Detroit, Michigan, from May 15 through May 20, 1933, with 297 delegates attending. O. E. Malitsky presided over the convention, and D. Halychyn and I. Hodovanets served as secretaries.

The reports showed that the UNA had a total of 19,831 adult and 12,015 juvenile members. In 1923, the Supreme Assembly appropriated \$25,000 for assistance to the unemployed members; the money was taken out of the National and the Indigent Funds. The old type certificates had been replaced by new ones. In the four-year period the UNA assets had increased by over 1 million dollars, the adult membership increased by 3,848, and that of the Juvenile Department by 4,379. The UNA press organ *Svoboda* was not involved in any law suits, which had cost the UNA a good deal of money in several previous cases. The total assets of the UNA had grown to \$2,941,338.92, and those of the Juvenile Department to



DMYTRO HALYCHYN,

eleventh Supreme President and tenth Supreme Secretary of the UNA, one of the most prominent leaders of the Ukrainian American community since the interwar period until his death in 1961.

\$314,966.96. Attending the convention was L. G. Wolf, UNA actuary, who explained to the delegates both the reasons for the introduction of the new system and the nature of the system itself.

The convention decided to abolish the office of supreme treasurer and delegated the powers to the supreme financial secretary, who would combine both functions. The supreme president was to work permanently in the UNA offices and perform the duties assigned to him by the By-Laws of the organization.

It was decided that the UNA would pay the doctor's fees for medical examinations of new members.

The publication of the almanac was to be temporarily discontinued. The convention recommended that the Supreme Assembly deal with the problem of an English-language publication for youth.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Nicholas Murashko, president; Volodymyr Malewich, vice-president; Maria Olshanytska, vice-presidentess; Dmytro Halychyn and Roman Slobodian, secretaries; Peter Matsiyovsky, *Svoboda* manager; auditing committee: Omar E. Malytsky, Dmytro Kapitula, Anthony Pashuk; advisors: Stephen Slobodian, Gregory Yevusiak, Taras Shpikula, Ivan Lysak, Ivan Vaverchak, Oleksiy Sharshon, Nicholas Busko, Illia Husar, Anne Boyivka, and Helen Prydun.

The Supreme Assembly, at a special meeting held in July 1933, decided to start the publication of an English-language weekly supplement to *Svoboda*, to be called *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

At its annual meeting in February 1934, the Supreme Assembly discussed the possibilities of a merger between the UNA and the UWA (Ukrainian Workingmen's Association). The Supreme Assembly decided that the Executive Committee should pursue the discussion with the UWA Executive Committee, which had now raised the matter, but that the UNA officers insist that the UNA's established ideals, objectives, and traditions be retained.

The Supreme Assembly passed a resolution calling for the erection of a monument in honor of the Rev. Gregory Hrushka, founder of the UNA.

The Supreme Executive Committee, at its meeting of December 1934, decided to pay dividends to all members who had taken out new types of certificates (E, P, and O) since 1925.

The Committee also decided to publish a "Commemorative Book" on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the UNA, containing material on the activity of the Association, the progress of the entire Ukrainian community in the United States, and its relationship to the Ukrainian people in their native land.



The 18th Convention of the UNA adopted a series of measures designed at stimulating youth activities on a large scale. This brought about a new era in the life of the Ukrainian American community. The photo shows large gathering of delegates to the Fourth Youth Congress held in Philadelphia in 1936. An All-Ukrainian Olympiad was staged here in conjunction with the Congress.

The Nineteenth Convention was held in the nation's capital, Washington, D. C., from May 10 through May 15, 1937, with 319 delegates attending. Gregory Herman was elected chairman of the convention, while Stephen Kuropas and Maria Kitseniuk served as secretaries.

It was stated in the reports that the total membership of the UNA was 30,335, of which 8,416 were enrolled in the Juvenile Department. The total assets of the UNA had grown to \$4,489,305.96.

At a special meeting held in July 1933, the Supreme Assembly appointed Dr. Luke Myshuha as Editor-in-Chief of *Svoboda*, a position held until that time by Omelian Reviuk.



Gregory Herman,
nineteenth Vice-President and
eleventh Supreme Secretary

In the period between the conventions, the Supreme Assembly and the Supreme Executive Committee made the following decisions: proclaimed 1934 a jubilee year of the UNA and launched a new membership drive; announced that premiums would be awarded to branch presidents and secretaries for organizing new members; engaged permanent UNA organizers; paid out dividends to certificate holders in 1935; responding to President Roosevelt's appeal on improving the nation's economy, the UNA invested 2.5 million dollars in U.S. bonds in 1933-36; at that time the UNA encountered a number of difficulties with mortgage and real estate investments; in accordance with the resolution adopted at the last convention, the Committee published the UNA Commemorative Book.

The nineteenth convention adopted the newly amended constitution and by-laws. The convention also decided that "the editing, printing, and distribution of *Svoboda* should be entrusted to such a corporation and on such conditions as the Supreme Executive Committee finds suitable. The Committee should sign a contract with a publishing firm, whereby the latter will agree to issue all publications requested by the UNA and mail copies of *Svoboda* to each member of the UNA at the prescribed rate of subscription." The reason for this arrangement, adopted almost unanimously (two votes against), was the fact that *Svoboda* and, consequently, the



UNA Supreme Assembly after the 19th Convention in 1937. Seated, left to right, are: Dmytro Halychyn, Secretary, Maria Malievych, Vice-Presidentess, Nicholas Murashko, President, Gregory Herman, Vice-President, Roman Slobodian, Treasurer.

UNA as its publisher, had become involved in several law suits, litigations, and other difficulties. The delegates felt that the UNA should retain the ownership of *Svoboda*, but that it should be relieved of all responsibility for its content.

The Supreme Assembly was selected as follows: Nicholas Murashko, president; Gregory Herman, vice-president; Maria Malievych, vice-presidentess; Dmytro Halychyn, recording secretary; Roman Slobodian, financial secretary-treasurer; auditing committee: Dmytro Kapitula, Dr. Ambrose Kibzey, Omar E. Malytsky, Stephen Kurupas, Roman Smuk; advisors: Taras Shpikula, Ivan Lysak, Nicholas Davyskyba, Anthony Shumeyko, Illia Husar, Stephen Slobodian, Onufriy Zapotochny, Ivan Vaverchak, Volodymyr, Didyk, Julia Bavoriak, and Stephanie Palivoda.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The general characteristic of the status, activity, and development of the Ukrainian National Association in the period between the two World Wars can be summarized as follows:

1. Stabilization, development, and expansion on the basis of past achievements. By the end of World War I, the UNA had be-

come an organization with a 30-year-old tradition, having successfully passed through the main stages of its development both as a fraternal benefit society and as the foremost social and civic organization of Ukrainian Americans. In the process it had acquired a great deal of know-how and experience, having gone through periods of growth and crises. It had succeeded in establishing a large organizational network, a strong financial basis, and, most important of all, hundreds of loyal and dedicated pioneer-leaders whose ranks were being constantly replenished by the newly arriving immigrants, on the one hand, and by the young and energetic leaders of the American-born generation, on the other.



Stephen Kuropas,
one of the prominent leaders of
the Organization for the Rebirth
of Ukraine, currently Vice-President
of the UNA

2. Under the influence of the newly arriving political refugees and developments in enslaved Ukraine, particularly the revolutionary liberation movement, the UNA stood clearly on the side of the latter and supported it with all the means at its disposal, adopting principles that strengthened the movement by constructive political action in America. Yet the UNA never lost sight of its primary functions as an independent Ukrainian American organization with a purpose and policy of its own. And it was the young American-born generation of Ukrainians which was largely responsible for the maintenance of this balance between Ukrainian and American values and interests.

3. At the same time the UNA strove to attain a balance between its obligations as a fraternal benefit society and its responsibilities as a civic organization of considerable stature. In earlier years, the UNA was virtually compelled by force of circumstance to assume the leadership of the Ukrainian organized community in America. But with the outbreak of World War I, the UNA, recognizing the needs of the time, took the initiative in pressing for the establishment of a central political representation. In the interwar period this function was carried on by the United Ukrainian Organizations of America. Moreover, a number of organizations of purely social or political character began to emerge, such as the Organiza-

tion for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU), which eventually took over some of the load carried until that time by the UNA alone.

4. Another contributing factor to the attainment of balance in UNA's operations was the internal modernization, started in 1914 at the thirteenth convention. In 1926, the sixteenth convention introduced modern types of insurance, thus continuing the process of modernization which intensified with each succeeding year, particularly with the election of Dmytro Halychyn to the post of supreme secretary at the eighteenth convention in 1933. A professional economist with a degree from the University of Vienna, D. Halychyn was well versed in the intricacies of the American insurance system and applied this knowledge in streamlining the structure of the organization and making the necessary improvements. Like Roman Slobodian, the indefatigable treasurer of the UNA, D. Halychyn did not relinquish his interests and activities in the community at large.

5. The description would not be complete without mentioning the fact that it was Dr. Myshuha and his colleagues who gave a clear-cut meaning to the idea of "two homelands" thus furnishing a strong yet flexible framework of moral values. The interwar period in the life of the Ukrainian National Association can be said to have been a period of synthesis of these values, objectives, and interests which provided a firm basis for the Association's future growth and development.

V. UNA DURING WORLD WAR II

1939-1945

CARPATHO-UKRAINE — A NEW RAY OF HOPE

As far as the Ukrainian Americans were concerned—and for that matter the entire Ukrainian people — the Second World War began in the fall of 1938, in the wake of developments in Czechoslovakia following the Munich Conference. As in 1914 and in 1917-19, the hearts of the Ukrainian people everywhere filled with renewed hope and expectation. The United Ukrainian Organizations of America stood at the helm of a sustained political action in behalf of Carpatho-Ukraine's independence. On October 3, 1938, the UUOA issued an appeal "to the Ukrainian immigrants in America." Signed by Omelian Reviuk, President, and Dmytro Halychyn, Financial Secretary, the appeal read as follows:

"The world is now going through a period of grave crisis. The boundaries of states are changing daily and whole countries pass from power to power without even a shot being fired. This crisis closely concerns Ukraine, because in Czechoslovakia, which is most directly embroiled in this crisis, there are close to 750,000 persons of Ukrainian descent . . . At the congress of representatives of various organizations in Uzhhorod, the Ukrainians of Transcarpathia have authorized the Ukrainian Central Rada to speak in behalf of the entire Ukrainian population of that land.

"The situation is extremely grave, for now the neighboring states of Hungary and Poland are advancing historical claims to Ukrainian lands currently occupied by Czechoslovakia. There is danger that Hungary and Poland may reach an agreement at the expense of Transcarpathia.

"The difficult situation of Transcarpathia is further complicated by the fact that even Czechoslovakia, which is in danger of losing it, refuses to allow the Ukrainian population to express its will through duly elected representatives. And what is most tragic is that there is no independent Ukrainian state which would be in a position to defend our brothers in Transcarpathia. . .

"Only Ukrainian immigrants living in the free countries of the world can speak out in defense of our brothers in Transcarpathia. Only we can induce the world public opinion to heed the plight of our brothers.

"Ukrainian immigrants in America must utilize their freedom in defense of the Ukrainian people under Czechoslovak occupation. We must send

telegrams from every meeting or rally to the government of the United States and other great powers, and to the international conference which will determine the borders of Czechoslovakia. In these letters and telegrams we must demand that our people in Transcarpathia be granted the right to express their will and determine their future course. . .

"At the same time, we must remind the world that in addition to the Transcarpathian Ukrainians there are over 40 million others living in slavery under Polish, Russian, and Rumanian occupation, and that there can be no real peace until all Ukrainian people are given freedom and independence."

Shortly afterwards a series of rallies and demonstrations were held in Ukrainian communities across the nation in defense of Carpatho-Ukraine, and a fund drive was initiated for that purpose. As in all previous cases, the UNA was at the helm of that action.

Meanwhile, Dr. Myshuha left for Europe as official representative of the United Ukrainian Organizations and the UNA. He held a series of conferences in London and Paris on the problem of Carpatho-Ukraine. He finally arrived in Vienna where on October 14, 1938 he delivered a speech on one of the local radio stations. Later, during the period of Soviet-American fraternization, this speech was used by the Communist agents in America in their vicious campaign against the UNA, *Svoboda*, and Dr. Myshuha personally. This is reason enough for us now to recall that memorable speech:

"From time immemorial Transcarpathian Ukraine—the land that is still erroneously referred to as 'Carpathian Ruthenia'—has been a natural part of Ukraine. It has remained so until the present day. As a result of extreme poverty and political repressions by the Hungarian regime, a large part of the population has been compelled to leave the native land and emigrate to America in search of freedom and better opportunities. These immigrants were later instrumental in Transcarpathia's incorporation into the Czechoslovak republic.

"It is not my intention to enumerate here all of the wrongs suffered by the people of Transcarpathia at the hands of the Prague regime, especially when one considers the Ukrainians' right to independent cultural, economic, and political life. I shall confine myself to the statement that these rights, as well as the international agreements guaranteeing them, were completely ignored by the Czechoslovak government. It was quite clear to us in America where this policy would lead, and we tried to appeal to the good sense of the Czechoslovak leaders. We felt that by some unfathomable power history had created this situation so that the Czechs might at last abandon their traditional Russophilism and realize that through Transcarpathia they neighbor with Ukraine and not with Russia. And when in 1917-18 the Ukrainian people, after centuries of oppression, were able to attain once again the cherished goal of freedom, independence, and national statehood and maintain it in spite of ruthless assaults by Ukraine's historic enemies from all sides, it was hoped that the democratic land of Thomas

Masaryk would be among the first to sense this tremendous manifestation of national willpower and determination in defense of the very same principles, pronounced by President Wilson, that guaranteed Czechoslovakia's freedom and independence. The Prague regime, however, refused to recognize this reality and failed in providing a positive solution to the Ukrainian question. It was this lack of sound political thinking and humanitarian concern for the tragedy of the 45-million Ukrainian nation that prevented Transcarpathia from developing under the Czechoslovak occupation along its natural Ukrainian lines, in accordance with justice and the well-defined interests of Ukrainians, Czechs, and Slovaks. All of this must be immediately corrected.

"I wish to inform you that I have received instructions via telegram from the United States of America to defend Transcarpathia's right of national self-determination as I speak on behalf of millions of American citizens of Ukrainian descent. To our brothers and sisters in Transcarpathia and to the official authorities I wish to say the following:

"I am speaking officially in the name of the Ukrainian National Association, a 44-year-old organization which embraces tens of thousands of Ukrainian Americans. I am also addressing you in behalf of the United Ukrainian Organizations in America, a political-humanitarian organization which has supported the Ukrainian people in their struggle for liberation over the past seventeen years. I say 'officially' because among millions of Ukrainian immigrants on the North and South American continents there is no Ukrainian political party, secular or religious organization that has not already declared publicly what I will state now:

"1. Carpatho-Ukraine belongs to the 45-million Ukrainian nation which has been its neighbor for thousands of years. The entire Ukrainian nation feels bound by duty and right to help this land secure such rights as will once and forever make the Ukrainian people sole masters in their own home, with a culture, language, and name that is also their own.

"2. The Ukrainian American immigrants and, for that matter, the entire Ukrainian people have never borne any hostility toward the Czech and Slovak peoples, nor do they wish to cause any harm to them at this crucial moment in history. They only insist that the Ukrainian people of Transcarpathia become free and independent, that they no longer be subjected to cultural persecution and economic exploitation, and that the Soviet Union and other enemies of Ukrainian statehood refrain from using Transcarpathia in their devious attacks on Ukrainian national ideals and political aspirations. If the Czechs and Slovaks are indeed on the side of the Ukrainian people in their struggle to secure freedom and independence, they will find many friends among Ukrainians in Transcarpathia and everywhere else. But they should remember always that just as they treasure their freedom and independence, all sincere and patriotic Ukrainians love Ukraine above all else!

"In concluding the message which I have been authorized to deliver, I wish to congratulate our brothers and sisters in Carpatho-Ukraine upon their achievements and call upon them to stand firmly as masters of their Transcarpathia, our ancestral Ukrainian land. All of us, wherever we may be, are constantly with you and ready to help you. Remember that your success is the success of all Ukrainian people and a victory for truth!"

As already mentioned above, this speech, delivered over an Austrian radio station in Vienna, was used by the Red enemies of Ukrainian liberation in attacks on Dr. Myshuha and the Ukrainian National Association.

The Ukrainian Americans and the UNA continued their bold efforts in behalf of Ukrainian liberation, in spite of hopelessly adverse conditions, and when on Hitler's orders Carpatho-Ukraine was deprived of its principal cities, Uzhhorod and Mukachiv, the UNA immediately sent letters of protest to the governments of the United States, England, France, Germany, and Italy. The letters read as follows:



Michael Piznak,
prominent attorney and civic
leader of the American-born gen-
eration

"The Americans of Ukrainian descent organized in the largest Ukrainian fraternal order in the United States, known as the Ukrainian National Association, vigorously protest against the unjust allocation of the most fertile and richest part of Carpatho-Ukraine, together with its principal cities of Uzhhorod and Mukachiv and its main rail line, to Hungary. Such a division not only violates the ethnographic principle, but also deprives the country of its vital economic needs."

The telegram was signed by Nicholas Murashko, UNA Supreme President, Gregory Herman and Maria Malievych, Supreme Vice-presidentess, Roman Slobodian, Supreme Treasurer, and Dmytro Halychyn, Supreme Secretary.

At about the same time, the UNA received a telegram from the Rev. Augustine Voloshyn, Prime-Minister of Carpato-Ukraine, which contained the following message:

"We, the government of Carpatho-Ukraine, are calling upon you, our brothers across the ocean, to show your solidarity with us in this crucial hour. The loss of Uzhhorod and Mukachiv, while inflicting a deep wound in the flesh of our Fatherland, will not sway us from our firm resolve to carry out this great historic mission. Your assistance to the government of Carpatho-Ukraine will show that you understand the gravity of the hour.—Voloshyn, Prime-Minister."

In response to Prime-Minister Voloshyn's appeal *Svoboda* published an editorial article entitled "We Shall Help!". Indeed,

the drive for moral and material assistance gained greater momentum, until new developments, the tragic fall of Carpatho-Ukraine, and the outbreak of World War II placed still other challenges and demands on the Ukrainian community in the United States.

IN DEFENSE OF UKRAINE'S RIGHTS

On September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland, thus precipitating a new crisis which led eventually to the second global conflict of the twentieth century. For Ukraine the "hour of reckoning" had again arrived. And in spite of adverse political conditions stemming from the initial Soviet-German and later Soviet-Allied friendship, Ukrainians in America showed as much vigor and determination as ever in rallying to the cause of Ukrainian national liberation. The UNA was equally prominent in all endeavors towards this end, first within the framework of the United Ukrainian Organizations in America and since 1940 as member of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Early in December 1939, the Eight Congress of the United Ukrainian Organizations convened in New York. In an appeal issued on this occasion to all Ukrainians in America, the congress stated that "the time has arrived when the fate of Ukraine will again be decided . . . In this difficult hour, we who are protected by the American Star-Spangled Banner again wish to help the Ukrainian Trident. We wish to help those who bring freedom to the Ukrainian people and who will institute a political order that guarantees the individual rights of free speech and expression, freedom from exploitation, opportunity for employment, and unfettered development of natural talents and abilities . . .

At the same time, a call was issued for the convocation of the All-Ukrainian National Congress to be held in March of 1940. The delegates to the congress of the United Ukrainian Organizations pledged "to join all other Ukrainian organizations, communities, parishes, and all Ukrainians of good will in a united front for the defense of Ukraine." A special coordinating committee was formed to make all necessary arrangements for the All-Ukrainian Congress.

However, after a series of talks and conferences the United Ukrainian Organizations agreed to let the executive committees of the four Ukrainian fraternal orders convene the All-Ukrainian Congress. Subsequently, a 20-member Ukrainian Congress Committee was formed. It was headed by Nicholas Murashko, the then Supreme President of the Ukrainian National Association. This committee

called together the first Congress of Ukrainian Americans which assembled in Washington, D. C., on May 24, 1940. Attended by 805 delegates from 168 towns, representing some 2,000 Ukrainian organizations, the Congress was a true manifestation of Ukrainian unity and solidarity in defense of Ukraine's rights and aspirations. The Congress sent out special memoranda, including one to the government of the United States, stating that the unjust enslavement of Ukraine is one of the main causes of World War II and that there can be no permanent peace in the world until a free and independent Ukrainian national state is established.

It is not the intended purpose of this story to discuss the history of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The subject has been treated extensively in the UNA Jubilee Almanacs for the years 1944 and 1949. It should be mentioned, however, that after a series of crises the Committee was reorganized in March 1943 and the Second Congress of Ukrainian Americans was held in Philadelphia in January 1944. The leftists-socialist elements did not take part in the Congress. Taking advantage of the prevailing atmosphere of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, these elements joined the Communists in an all-out campaign against the Ukrainian National Association.

FIGHT FOR TRUTH

This was indeed a trying period for Ukrainians and Americans alike. The lecherous hand of communist agents, aided knowingly or unwittingly by all kinds of fellow-travelers, unleashed a vicious drive that threatened to undermine the very foundations of our society. While their espionage and subversive activities against America were secretly and slyly carried out, the campaign against Ukrainians, and particularly against the UNA, was conducted openly. In 1942, a "best selling" book appeared on the market from the pen of A. Kahn and M. Savers. Bearing the pretentious title of *Sabotage* and published by Harper and Brothers, the book depicted the UNA and Dr. Luke Myshuha, editor-in-chief of *Svoboda*, as the main culprits and "saboteurs." The Communist-led campaign against the UNA, *Svoboda*, and the Ukrainian Americans in general reached vast proportions, intensifying from day to day and penetrating the American mass media of communications. Slanderous attacks on "the Ukrainian Nazis" could be heard from all sides, including the press and the radio. The Red Fifth Column

May 20, 1943

Mr. Luke Myshuha
and Ukrainian National Association
as Owner and Publisher of the
Newspaper SVOBODA
c/o John Drewen, Esq.
Jersey City, N. J.

In re: Myshuha and Svoboda in connection
with claims against the book en-
titled SABOTAGE

Dear Sirs:

We are writing with the authority and approval of the authors with respect to the references to Mr. Luke Myshuha and Svoboda in the book SABOTAGE. A careful examination of the facts indicates that there is no justification for including Mr. Myshuha and SVOBODA in the chapter entitled "Bombers and Killers." You may be sure that any such references will be deleted from the said chapter in any subsequent editions.

Very truly yours

HARPER & BROTHERS

By 

The undersigned Albert Kahn and Michael Sayers, authors of the book SABOTAGE, approve the above letter and authorize that the publishers, Harper & Brothers, send such letter to Mr. Luke Myshuha and The Ukrainian National Association as owner and publisher of the newspaper SVOBODA.


Albert Kahn


Michael Sayers

Photostatic copy of the original letter from the authors and publishers of "Sabotage," retracting slanderous statements about Dr. Myshuha and "Svoboda."

managed to sway the opinion of a number of responsible American newspapers and radio commentators, including Walter Winchell. Some businessmen and factory supervisors, obviously confused by this steady stream of communist slanders and propaganda, went even so far as to threaten members of the UNA with loss of work and "further consequences." One of the favored themes of Communist agitators was the fact that in December 1941 the U. S. Department of Treasury, mistakenly and following a denunciation by the Communists, decided to have security agents check *Svoboda's* correspondence. And in spite of the fact that the UNA was cleared of any suspicion of wrong-doing and that the authorities apologized for their action, the Communists constantly played up this episode, twisting and misrepresenting the facts to fit their own devious ends. It must be stated — as painful as it may be — that a number of our own Ukrainian "opportunists" sought to capitalize on this communist-inspired anti-UNA campaign, which was actually part of a much greater design intended to strike at the very foundations of the American society.

The Ukrainian National Association and *Svoboda* withstood the attacks and held on to their positions with courage and conviction. A libel suit was brought against the authors and publishers of *Sabotage* and the UNA won the case. The allegations against the UNA, *Svoboda*, and its editor were found to be untrue, and had to be publicly recanted by the authors and publishers of the said book.

All America was caught in the maze of seemingly innocent yet cunningly insidious Soviet-American friendship. But the UNA and *Svoboda* were among the few exceptions to the generally and indiscriminately accepted trend, constantly pointing out the inherent dangers of this infatuation and "friendship." The tens of thousands of UNA members, guided by their judicious and persevering leaders, deserve our admiration for a great show of courage, patriotism, and conviction at a time when the odds were overwhelmingly stacked against them. Theirs was the deed that fashioned the UNA into "a Ukrainian citadel across the Ocean" — an appellation which it bears proudly and not undeservedly. In these difficult times the UNA could not allow itself the pleasure of internal controversies and debates on how to attain unity and consensus. By now it had matured into a strong organization with rapidly swelling ranks of hard-working, dedicated, and patriotic membership.

Despite nerve-racking and time-consuming struggles against the Communist Fifth Column, the UNA took an active part in all

of America's wartime efforts at home, particularly in the promotion and sale of the U. S. Victory Bonds, Red Cross activities, and similar endeavors.

At the same time, thousands of youthful UNA members served in the U. S. Armed Forces and fought on all battlefields of the world. Some of them gained highest distinction for heroic deeds above and beyond the call of duty, such as Col. Theodore Kalakuka, one of the heroes of Corregidor. Among those who were in combat units was Joseph Lesawyer, then a young captain in the U. S. Army, later Supreme Vice-President and since 1961 Supreme President of the UNA; another man who served his country well was Lt. Daniel Slobodian, currently manager of the luxurious UNA resort "Soyuzivka" in the Catskills; and thousands of others. In his report delivered at the 21st convention of the UNA in 1945, Supreme Treasurer Roman Slobodian listed 150 young UNA members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and died on the field of battle in defense of freedom and democracy. The UNA paid out more than \$110,000 in benefits to the widows, children, or other designated beneficiaries, even though all the certificates contained "war clauses."

WAR CONVENTION

The UNA constitution and by-laws states that regular conventions should be held every four years. During the war period the UNA was forced to forego this provision on two occasions, mainly because of communication difficulties and other obstacles arising out of the exigencies of the time. Thus the 20th and 21st conventions were called after five years instead of four as provided in the constitution. Actually, only one convention, the twentieth, was held during the war period.

Harrisburg, Pa., was the site of the *Twentieth Convention*, held from May 12 through May 17, 1941. A total of 415 delegates attended the sessions which were chaired by Michael Piznak, assisted by John Ewanchuk and Ivan Kuz. Serving as secretaries were Eugene Liakhovych and Michael Gudzyliak. In opening the convention Supreme President Nicholas Murashko recalled that the 14th convention was held here twenty-four years ago "also at a time of suffering and human tragedy... Now as then we share in the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the Old Country, who are not even allowed to speak in their own defense... It is, therefore, our duty to speak out in behalf of the enslaved Ukrainian people... We believe that they will break the chains that bind them, that

the day is near when the Ukrainian people will be free of any oppression — be it Russian, German or Hungarian — and that Ukrainian Americans will live to see the day when the bright rays of hope and faith in the great future of a free and democratic Ukraine will reach our shores from Kiev.”

The reports indicated that in spite of adverse conditions in the prewar and war periods, the UNA membership had grown to 38,167 while the total assets reached the sum of \$5,926,167.04.

In accordance with the decision adopted at the previous convention, the UNA had transferred the ownership of *Svoboda*, as of December 1, 1937, to the Ukrainian Press and Book Publications, Inc., retaining control of the latter.

In carrying out the general resolution of the previous convention and the decision of the Supreme Assembly, the Supreme Executive Committee executed the merger of the Union of Brotherhoods.

Recognizing the urgent need of a united front in defense of the Ukrainian people's right to freedom and independence, the UNA held a series of joint conferences with three other fraternal orders, namely, the Ukrainian Workingmen's Association, the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, and the Ukrainian National Aid Association, and “having reached the conclusion that Americans of Ukrainian descent must stand united in defense of the Ukrainian people and its just cause,” issued a call for the First Congress of Ukrainian Americans, which was held in Washington, D. C., in May 1940. It was this assembly which gave birth to the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

In accordance with the decision of the Supreme Assembly adopted in 1939, the Ukrainian National Association marked its 45th anniversary with the publication of Michael Hrushevsky's *History of Ukraine* in the English language.

It was also reported that in carrying out yet another resolution of the previous convention, the UNA had succeeded in organizing a number of sports clubs and athletic teams, including 28 baseball teams (430 players), 21 basketball teams (211 players), 33 bowling teams (235 bowlers). Directing and coordinating this area of activity was Gregory Herman, Supreme Vice-President of the UNA.

One of the decisions adopted at the convention called for a change in the official designation of UNA officers: the titles of “supreme recording secretary” and “supreme financial secretary” were changed to “supreme secretary” and “supreme treasurer,” respectively.

The convention also reviewed the contract between the UNA and the Ukrainian Press and Book Publications, Inc., concerning *Svoboda*.

In another far-reaching decision the convention instructed the Supreme Assembly "to purchase a spacious farm with appropriate facilities for kindergartens, a home for the aged, and space for athletic meets of all kinds."

Yet another resolution stated that "the official press organ of the UNA must be maintained in the same national democratic spirit; it must defend the Ukrainian name everywhere; it must help the cause of Ukrainian liberation and encourage our people to greater unity and strength..." Moreover, the convention "voiced a strong protest against unjust and slanderous accusations directed at the UNA by those who would like to associate the organization with Fascism, Nazism, or any other anti-democratic doctrine," and "extended greetings to all Ukrainian people who inhabit Ukrainian lands in Europe wishing them success in the heroic struggle against the invaders and giving assurances that we shall do everything in our power to persuade the democratic countries, which we are supporting, to recognize Ukraine as a free, independent, and democratic state."

The appropriation to *the Ukrainian Weekly* from the UNA treasury was raised from \$475 to \$600 per month.

The proposal suggesting that both the UNA and *Svoboda* transfer their main offices to a "larger city" was rejected.

The convention appropriated \$1,250 to various national causes in the United States and Canada.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Nicholas Murashko, president; Gregory Herman, vice-president; Maria Malievych, vice-presidentess; Dmytro Halychyn, secretary; Roman Slobodian, treasurer; auditing committee: Dmytro Kapitula, Dr. Walter Gallan, Dr. Ambrose T. Kibzey, Roman Smuk, Stephen Kuropas; advisors: Paul Duda, Stephen Slobodian, John Romanyshyn, Taras Shpikula, Volodymyr Didyk, Genevieve Zepko, Nicholas Davyskyba, Eugene Liakhovych, Anthony Shumeyko, Dmytro Szmagala, Julia Bavoliak.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

For the UNA, the Ukrainian American community, and for the entire Ukrainian people the second World War was a period of anxiety, suffering, sacrifice, and heroism in the struggle for truth and justice. As far as the Ukrainian Americans and the UNA were

concerned, the political situation could not have been more adverse: the greatest enemy of freedom — and not only Ukrainian freedom — was an ally of the United States, using and abusing that friendship for its own devious ends. Just as during World War I the UNA had lived through a period of internal crisis precipitated by a somewhat sudden yet unavoidable change in the system of assessments, during World War II the UNA experienced what can be safely called a deep moral tragedy caused by appallingly unjust accusations, lies, and smears inspired and openly directed by Moscow and its agents here in America. It was hardly conceivable yet true in all of its ugliness. Here was an organization with a 50-year-old tradition, which had firmly planted its Ukrainian roots on the American soil and which had reared two generations of dedicated and patriotic Americans of Ukrainian descent — suddenly facing enemy-inspired charges of disloyalty to America, a country which it had learned to cherish and call its own. And much like the guerilla soldiers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army who were forced to fight a hopeless battle on two fronts — against the Russian Communists and German Nazis, — the Ukrainian National Association found itself engaged in an equally bitter struggle on two fronts — defending itself and the Ukrainian American community . . .

In the first case, the UNA gained a victory of historic significance. By virtue of its hard won victory the UNA reaffirmed its reputation and image as one of the most patriotic American organizations dedicated to the ideals of freedom and justice, at the same time remaining true to the inviolate Ukrainian national values and traditions. Hardened in the battle and strengthened by the victory, financially stable and organizationally more dynamic than ever, the Ukrainian National Association was well prepared to face the challenges of a new era descending upon mankind in the aftermath of the just concluded world holocaust.

VI. UNA AFTER WORLD WAR II

1945-1960

THE GREAT VICTORY

The end of World War II ushered in an era of immense tragedy for the Ukrainians and many other peoples of the world. Entire Ukraine fell under a system of terror, slavery, and oppression unprecedented in history and unmatched in cruelty and exploitation. It became part of the Russo-Communist totalitarian state known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and separated from the rest of the world by an Iron Curtain. No part of Ukraine was left free of the enemy's total control. Simultaneously, millions of Ukrainians found themselves scattered all over the world, particularly in the countries of Western Europe with largest concentrations in western parts of Germany and Austria. Apart from the depressing misery of refugee camp life, two major threats confronted these displaced persons and imperiled their very existence: unfounded accusations of "Nazism" and "collaborationism" inspired by Moscow and its lackeys, and the threat of forced repatriation to the Soviet Union. These then were the new responsibilities that faced the UNA and the Ukrainians in America—to save the Ukrainian refugees while continuing to defend Ukraine's right to freedom and independence, and to unmask the Soviet Union as a neocolonialist prison of nations.

How did the UNA emerge from the second World War? Much material on the status of the UNA in the immediate postwar years can be found in the reports of the Supreme Assembly officers, particularly Supreme President Nicholas Murashko, Supreme Secretary Dmytro Halychyn, Supreme Treasurer Roman Slobodian, and Dr. Luke Myshuha, Editor-in-Chief of *Svoboda*. These reports were presented at the first postwar convention which was held in Pittsburgh in March, 1946.

The reports show clearly that in spite of insidiously waged campaigns by the enemies, the UNA emerged triumphant in all respects. Liars and slanderers were unmasked in court and truth was defended with success. During the five years of war, the UNA mem-

bership had increased by 7,553 in spite of natural losses, suspensions, and war casualties. The UNA assets had grown by almost 3 million dollars. The Association contributed to the sale of U.S. War Bonds worth over 20 million dollars. Five books on Ukraine in the English language were published in this period, and much was accomplished in the areas of political, social, economic, and cultural activity. But most important of all, by its firm and uncompromising stand against all enemies of Ukraine amid most trying conditions, the UNA virtually saved the Ukrainian community in America from internal vacillations and preserved the traditional principles of the defense of Ukraine's rights to political freedom, sovereignty and independence. In these trying times the UNA, more than ever before, justified its title of a "Ukrainian citadel across the ocean."

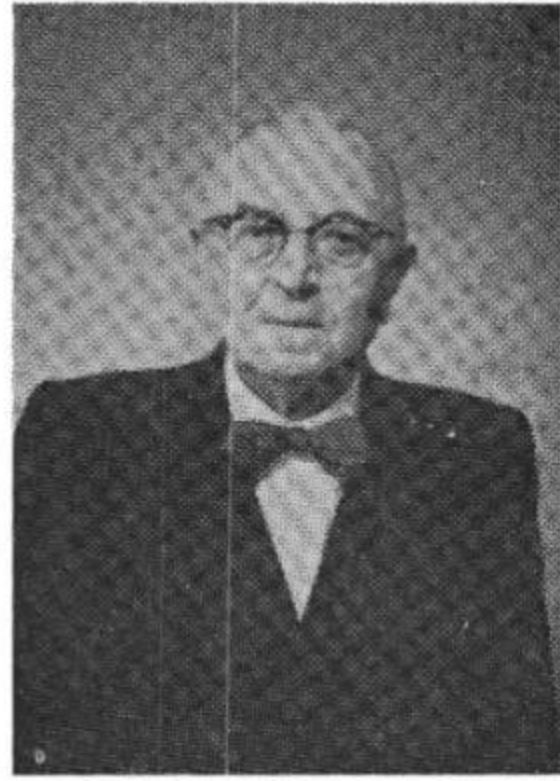
THE RESCUE OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

World War II turned Europe into a desert and its nations into beggars. But poorest among the poor was the huge mass of war refugees, the so-called displaced persons, scattered all over the continent. Among them were thousands of Ukrainians, one could say the elite of the Ukrainian people. The first news about Ukrainian refugees in Europe was brought here by American soldiers of Ukrainian descent, particularly such prominent UNA leaders as Joseph Lesawyer, then a captain in Gen. Patton's army and currently Supreme President of the UNA, John O. Flis, and others. In fact, it was J. Lesawyer who delivered a speech on "My Experience with Ukrainian Refugees" at the Third Congress of Ukrainian Americans in Washington in May 1946. We regret that due to limitations of space we can not reprint the speech in this brochure, as in more ways than one it opened the road for Ukrainian refugees first to the hearts of their brothers and sisters here, and eventually to America.

The question of organized relief and rescue operation had been raised earlier, notably at the Second Congress of Ukrainian Americans, held in Philadelphia on January 22, 1944. One of the resolutions adopted at that time called for the establishment of a special Relief Committee of America. In spite of early difficulties such a committee was finally created (June 24, 1944). Named the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC), it was headed by Dr. Walter Gallan, prominent UNA and civic leader, who devoted much of his time and energy to the committee's varied relief operations. Another man who played a decisive role in the establishment of the committee was its later president, Atty. John Panchuk of Detroit. In the very first year of its operation the UUARC received



Dr. Walter Gallan,
prominent UNA leader and long-
time executive director and presi-
dent of the United Ukrainian A-
merican Relief Committee



Vasyl Mudry,
President of the Central Repre-
sentation of the Ukrainian Emi-
gration in Germany during the
great resettlement period.
(d. March 19, 1966)

\$7,000 and later an additional \$2,500 from the UNA. In its turn, *Svoboda*, led by Dr. Luke Myshuha, later president of the UUARC, initiated a campaign for 100-dollar contributions which netted close to \$30,000. Thus, at the very outset the UUARC received close to \$40,000 from the UNA alone. Individual UNA branches and members followed the example of their leadership, as did other Ukrainian American organizations and the entire Ukrainian community in America. Apart from funds the UNA placed some of its most capable officers at the disposal of the UUARC: Dr. Gallan, Maria Demydchuk of New York, Helen Shtogryn of Philadelphia, Stephen Kuropas, N. Murashko, Roman Slobodian, W. Halychyn, Taras Shpikula, and Roman Smuk of Chicago, and many others. At the time even *Svoboda* looked more like an organ of the UUARC than of the UNA. Thanks to this vast effort the UUARC succeeded in carrying out its historic mission: to become one of the leading American voluntary relief organizations and to cooperate closely with the U.S. Government and other international welfare agencies, in this manner providing Ukrainian refugees in Europe with decisive legal aid and moral and material assistance worth millions of dollars. When the U.S. Congress passed a law granting admission to an additional 250,000 displaced persons to America, the UUARC saw



One of thousands of Ukrainian refugee families brought to the United States by the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee. Upon arrival in the U.S. port of entry, the refugees carried ZUADK identification cards, as shown in the photo.

to it that the opportunity was not wasted. Another organization that did a mammoth job in the relief operation was the Ukrainian Catholic Relief Committee in Stamford, Conn., headed by the Most Rev. Ambrose Senyshyn, then Bishop of the Stamford Diocese and later Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America.

The UNA played a decisive role in helping the Ukrainian refugees. Cooperating closely with the UUARC, the UNA became a kind of a huge resettlement center. Homes of UNA members were made available to the arriving refugees, efforts were made to find suitable employment for them, and a helping hand was extended to them readily in the most difficult period of adjustment to the new conditions of life.

"NEW BLOOD"

The large-scale relief and resettlement operation conducted by the UUARC with timely and generous assistance from the UNA constitutes one of the brightest pages in the history of the Ukrainian community in America. But the influx of Ukrainian refugees opened a new and equally bright era in the history of the Ukrainian

American community and particularly in the life of the UNA. This fact was acknowledged at the 22nd UNA Convention in 1950 by Dmytro Halychyn, who was elected to the post of Supreme President:

“The arrival of political refugees has caused a complete change in the life of the Ukrainian American community, and it must be stated that our community has profited from this change. Thousands of new immigrants have strengthened Ukrainian American organizations; they have filled our churches; they have enriched the content of our cultural life and given it a new impetus. But most important of all, their patriotism and the refreshing breath of the Ukrainian soil that they brought with them regenerated the feelings of love and compassion for the enslaved Ukrainian people among those Ukrainian Americans who, separated by distance and time, were growing indifferent toward the land of their ancestors. Now our organizations are beginning to acquire a new image, one that combines the best in American and Ukrainian cultures . . .”

In the Ukrainian National Association this “new blood” lived up to the expectations in all respects. The ranks of the UNA began to swell in the first years of the mass refugee resettlement. In the period between the 21st and 22nd conventions, that is, from 1946 to 1952, the UNA membership grew from 45,720 in 1946 to over 56,000 at the end of 1950. It should be noted that the new immigrants had little understanding of insurance which, after all, is the essential business of the UNA. This means that it must have been something else that attracted them to the UNA. And this “something else” was undoubtedly UNA’s devotion to the common values and ideals, its program of civic, cultural and educational activities, and its dedication to the ideals of Ukrainian freedom and independence.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

E pluribus unum—“one out of many”—this motto of the United States could well be applied to the UNA.

Today, in the seventy-second year of UNA’s existence, there are three supreme executive officers employed permanently in its main offices: Supreme President Joseph Lesawyer, one of the outstanding leaders of the American-born generation and a veteran of the American Army; Supreme Treasurer Roman Slobodian, a prominent pioneer-leader who has held the office for over forty-five years; Supreme Secretary Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, one of the leading representatives of the new immigration. This process dates back to the immediate post-World War II years. Working on the editorial staff of UNA’s press organ *Svoboda* were Dr. Luke Myshuha, one of the most brilliant representatives of the post-World War I immigrants to this country and former head of the

Western Ukrainian government's mission in Washington, and his associates, Dr. Semen Demydchuk, former delegate of *Ridna Shola* and one of the organizers of the First Ukrainian Diet in America (1915); Stephen Shumeyko, a prominent and indifatigable leader of the younger generation; and the author of this story, one of the first, if not the first, post-World War II immigrants to the United States. A similar "distribution" applies to all other UNA and *Svoboda* employees as well as the UNA membership at large. This balance extends to territorial origin, political convictions, party affiliation, and religious denomination. Indeed, *e pluribus unum* in the full sense of the word.

The UNA publications—*Svoboda*, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, and the children's illustrated monthly *Veselka* (The Rainbow)—serve as yet another example of this all-embracing balance. Here are represented all strata of our society, all religious faiths and denominations, political parties, our civic, cultural, scientific, economic, educational, and youth organizations. The publications serve all groups and can be called American, Canadian or Ukrainian with equal justification.

It would require a greater perspective of time to explain the immense value of this aspect of the UNA. It is no secret that there were many political differences and internal conflicts among Ukrainian refugees of World War II, and that these cleavages affected the Ukrainian community in America even before the onset of the great resettlement movement. Half-hearted attempts at reconciliation failed to produce meaningful results. In the UNA, however, under the motto *e pluribus unum*, they all met in the spirit of tolerance, mutual respect, and cooperation—Ukrainians of all walks of life, various professions, divergent political views, and religious faiths—and having met they once again "embraced like brothers and spoke the words of quiet love."

This truly blessed unity in the UNA found its expression in the principle, formulated in the post-World War II period,—“A union of ideas, efforts, and fields of action.

THE GREAT RECONCILIATION

The postwar period witnessed yet another event of enormous significance to the development of the UNA and the entire Ukrainian community in America. This was the attainment of complete reconciliation and establishment of close relations between the leadership of the UNA and the hierarchies of both Ukrainian Churches. The



**Archbishop-Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn,
Primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States.**

use of the word "reconciliation" requires a brief retrospective look into the past.

Svoboda, the Ukrainian National Association, and the Ukrainian community in America were actually started by priests — or more precisely, Ukrainian Catholic pioneer-priests, notably Frs. Voliansky and Hrushka. In the first two stages of its development the UNA was led by the clergy in cooperation with the rapidly swelling ranks of civic leaders. On the other hand, *Svoboda*, the UNA, and its branches played a leading role in the erection of churches and in the organization of church parishes.

It was on August 27, 1907 that Soter Ortynsky, OSBM, the first Ukrainian Catholic bishop, arrived in America. He came here "despite opposition from all Roman Catholic bishops in America and twelve Cardinals in Rome" (*Svoboda*, No. 36, 1907). Bishop Ortynsky encountered great difficulties here. The UNA and *Svoboda* placed themselves wholly at his disposal. The telegram which the UNA Supreme Assembly sent to the bishop, "inspired me to greater efforts in behalf of our poor Ukrainian people" (*Svoboda*, No. 42, 1907). One year later the UNA nominated Bishop Ortynsky as the organization's first honorary member and spiritual leader.

Unfortunately, this relationship deteriorated, as already described elsewhere in this booklet.

Bishop Ortynsky died in 1916. The administration of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese was assumed by the Rev. Peter Poniatyshyn, for a long time one of the most active leaders of the UNA. Close relations between the UNA and the Diocese prevailed until the arrival of Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky, later Archbishop and first Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America, who came here on August 15, 1924. Soon afterwards a conflict developed between the bishop and the UNA, which became extremely acute and caused much confusion to organized Ukrainian life in America. To be sure, the cleavage had been resolved even before the outbreak of World War II, but the wound still smarted and scars remained.

The man who played a decisive role in ending this conflict was the Most Rev. Ambrose Senyshyn, the Bishop of the Stamford Diocese and currently Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of America. His participation in the funeral ceremonies for the late Dmytro Halychyn, UNA Supreme President who died tragically in March, 1961, was perhaps symbolic of this great change in the church-community relations, bringing an end to discord and misunderstandings and ushering in a new and brighter era of mutual respect and cooperation.



**Metropolitan John Theodorovich,
Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States.**

Equally harmonious relations have been established between the UNA and the two other hierarchs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America, Bishop Joseph Shmondiuk of Stamford and Bishop Jaroslav Gabro of Chicago. Similar good fellowship and cooperation exist between the UNA and the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy of Canada, headed by Metropolitan Maxime Hermaniuk.

The spirit of amity and mutual respect has been the dominant feature of UNA relations with the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches, particularly with the Most Rev. John Theodorovych, Archbishop-Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America, and Archbishop Mstyslav Skrypnyk of the same Church.

In 1962-64 the eyes of all mankind turned to Rome, where an event of great historic significance was taking place, the Second Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church, moving toward greater unity of all Christians in the face of the growing threat of atheistic communism. A fitting climax to this movement was the historic journey of Pope Paul VI to the Holy Land and his meeting with Patriarch Athenagoras of the Orthodox Church. Foreshadowing this development was the meeting of the Ukrainian Catholic Bishop J. Schmondiuk and the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop Mstyslav Skrypnyk at the UNA 25th jubilee convention, held in May of 1962 in New York City. Messages of greeting were received from the heads of both Ukrainian Churches in America, Metropolitan Senyshyn and Metropolitan Theodorovych.

Reflecting this spirit of unity and solidarity in the realm of church-community relations are the UNA publications, the *Svoboda* daily, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, and the children's monthly illustrated *Veselka*.



Volodymyr Hirniak



Paul Duda

NEW PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA

UNA's early interest and concern for Ukrainians living in Canada has already been discussed in this story. At its annual meeting of June 1901, the UNA Supreme Assembly decided to accept members from Canada, providing they organize into brotherhoods which would then join the UNA. Similar decisions were adopted at subsequent meetings and conventions, but it was not until 1916 that the first UNA branch (No. 49) was founded in Toronto. The second branch was organized twenty years later, in 1937, in Windsor, Ontario, in cooperation with the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada (UNO). Large-scale organization of UNA branches in Canada did not begin until 1939, and with the establishment of the first UNA branch in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1943, it expanded into the north-western regions of Canada. Originally, UNA branches were attached to the local UNO branches. Among the leading UNA pioneer-organizers in Canada were such prominent men as Volodymyr Hirniak, Paul Duda, Volodymyr Kossar, and others.

Until it had secured representation on the Supreme Assembly, the UNA in Canada was unable to evolve a distinct character of its own. The first officer from Canada on the UNA Supreme Assembly was Paul Duda, who was elected to the post of advisor at the 20th convention in May, 1941. There were only three delegates from Ca-



Volodymyr Kossar,
UNA Supreme Auditor and civic
leader in Canada



Bohdan Zorych,
UNA Supreme Advisor and Di-
rector of Canadian Office

nada at this convention, representing all of UNA's 800 Canadian members. At the 21st convention, held in Pittsburgh in March 1946, there were already 18 delegates from Canada representing 3,000 members. In addition to Paul Duda, who was re-elected as supreme advisor, two other Canadians were elected to the Supreme Assembly, V. Hirniak and John W. Evanchuk. Both men became members of the UNA Supreme Auditing Committee. The 22nd convention, held in Cleveland in 1950, elected V. Kossar, a prominent leader of the Ukrainian community in Canada, to the UNA Supreme Auditing Committee.

The new phase in the development of UNA in Canada began in 1958, the year of the 24th convention in Cleveland. The convention passed a resolution calling for the "establishment of a coordinating center of UNA activity in Canada," and elected Bohdan Zorych, a young and energetic leader from the ranks of the postwar refugees, to the post of supreme advisor. On September 1, 1959, the UNA Canadian office was opened in Toronto, headed by V. Kossar, director, and B. Zorych, executive secretary. The 25th convention confirmed and expanded the Canadian Office, now headed by B. Zorych, and increased the representation of Canadian members on the Supreme Assembly level by electing Bohdan Melnyk of Montreal to the post of supreme advisor. By the end of 1963—on the threshold of its 70th anniversary—the UNA had succeeded in expanding to all provinces of Canada, and established a total of 53 branches with 6,889 members.

WOMEN IN THE UNA

Over the years, the UNA has been devoting special attention to women, as indicated by the many resolutions adopted at various conventions. A woman, who is naturally concerned over her family's security, would be the first to show interest in the insurance offered by the UNA. It was in recognition of this fact that the UNA created the post of supreme vice-presidentess at the 10th convention in 1908, which subsequently elected Maria Cheremshak as the first Supreme Vice-Presidentess of the UNA. The 14th convention, held in October of 1917, increased the representation of women on the UNA Supreme Assembly level by electing Anne De-



**Anna Herman,
Vice-Presidentess**



**Maria Malievych,
fifth Supreme Vice-
Presidentess.**



**Genevieve Zerebniak,
sixth Supreme Vice-
Presidentess.**

runda and Melanie Kravchyshyn to the posts of supreme advisors. At the present time, women, who constitute over 40 per cent of the total UNA membership, are well represented on the UNA Supreme Assembly, for in addition to Supreme Vice-Presidentess Ann Herman, five other women were elected in 1962 to the posts of supreme advisors: Anna Chopek, Helen Olek, Osypa Olinkevych, Maria Demydchuk, and Helen Shtohryn.

"MONEY TALKS"

The description of the UNA as a "union of ideas, efforts, and fields of action" has been cited earlier in this story. Yet in tracing the history of the UNA we have dealt in greater detail with the first two aspects of the UNA, the social and the organizational, inasmuch as they represent that valuable "extra" that the UNA has to offer in addition to various forms of life insurance. But it would be erroneous to ignore the financial aspect of the UNA, not only because the financial department constitutes an integral part of the Association's structural set-up, but also because in America, as everywhere else in the world, "money talks."

In the UNA money does indeed "talk,"—and in most convincing manner at that. Even in the affluent America of today, 25.5 million dollars in assets, accumulated by the UNA on the threshold of its seventieth anniversary, represents a substantial sum of money and a

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>70-й рік заснування 1 червня 1940-го Варшавою та Львовом</p> | <p>СВОБОДА УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ЩОДЕННИК</p> | | <p>SVOBODA UKRAINIAN DAILY</p> | <p>Сторінка 1, загальнонаціональний № 20, вихід 24 Варшава, Польща 1940 рік Відомості про газету — у всіх українських — у Варшаві, Львові, — у Львові, Львові, Львові — у Львові, Львові, Львові</p> |
| <p>... в Україні не існує жодної газети, яка б не була під впливом української влади. Це єдиний спосіб захисту України на чужині. ДІЯКА ВІСНИК</p> | <p>СВОБОДА УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ЩОДЕННИК</p> | | <p>SVOBODA UKRAINIAN DAILY</p> | <p>Адреса: The Ukrainian Weekly 24-25 Grand Street New York, N. Y. 24, Grand Street New York, N. Y. 24-25 Grand Street New York, N. Y.</p> |
| <p>The Ukrainian Weekly Section</p> | | | | |
| <p>ЗАКЛИК ГОЛОВНОГО УРЯДУ у справі Київського Роту УНС</p> | | <p>ТРИБУНА У.Н.СОЮЗУ</p> | <p>В ПОШАНІ ДЛІЯ РОБОТНИЦЬ РУН СРІДКА НЕУВАЖЛИВИМ БРАТІМ І СЕСТРАМ — 1940 РОКУ</p> | |
| <p>Пластова Ватра</p> | <p>ПРОМІНЬ</p> | | | |
| <p>ШЛЯХ МОЛОДІ</p> | <p>СТОРІНКА ТУСМ-У ВИДАНО З НАГОДИ 7-ГО КОНГРЕСУ ТУСМ-У</p> | | | |
| <p>СТУДЕНТСЬКЕ СЛОВО</p> | <p>СПОРТ UKRAINIAN SPORTS</p> | | | |
| <p>ЛІТОПИС ОДУМ-У</p> | <p>РІДНА ШКОЛА</p> | | | |
| <p>СТОРІНКА ЗАРЕВА</p> | | | | |

The "third estate" of the UNA: "Svoboda," "The Ukrainian Weekly," "UNA Tribune," and other periodical publications which appear as one-page supplements of various youth organizations.

convincing argument that often speaks for itself. Viewed in its historical perspective, the financial aspect of the UNA assumes even greater significance. For then the current assets of the UNA represent but a small fraction of the hundreds of millions of dollars provided by the UNA over the entire period of its 70-year history to its membership, to the community, to the Ukrainian people, and to the adopted countries of its members. Churches, schools, national homes, business enterprises, and private homes owned by Ukrainians in the United States have become what may justly be called our common national assets, thanks to the financial assistance of the UNA. Today, over 8 million dollars of the total UNA assets are invested in mortgage loans to national homes, churches, schools, and privately owned property of Ukrainians living in the United States and Canada. If we add the tens of millions of dollars paid out by the UNA to members or their beneficiaries, additional millions given to members in loans, millions of dollars donated to various causes, and the fact that it was the UNA which instilled in our people a sense of fiscal responsibility,—then we begin to have a general idea of UNA's financial strength and its convincingly persuasive derivatives.

In terms of its resources, the Ukrainian National Association can be classified as a multi-million organization. These millions are the property of all members of the UNA—and as such they constitute Ukrainian Community property—entrusted to the duly elected leadership of the UNA. Consequently, the management of this property requires adherence to two basic principles: security and service for the common good of all owner-members.

THE "THIRD ESTATE" OF THE U N A

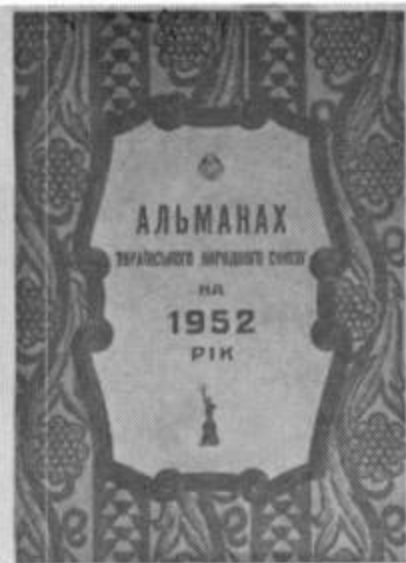
In the Middle Ages, the society of feudal Europe was divided into three principal classes or estates: the clergy, the nobles, and the peasantry. In modern times, the press acquired the title of "the fourth estate," reflecting the medium's growing stature and responsibility in the life of organized society. Within the structural system of the Ukrainian National Association the press constitutes the "third estate," as it were, along with the organizational and the financial departments. It is an integral part of the Association, having played a leading role in the development of the organization and of the Ukrainian communities in the United States and Canada.

The significance of the UNA press organs and publications has been repeatedly stressed in this story. In the mind of the pioneer, as later for the American-born and the new immigrant, the UNA and *Svoboda* became inseparable. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine *Svoboda*



Title pages of "The Rainbow" monthly magazine for children.

without the UNA. And, conversely, the UNA would not be what it is without *Svoboda*. The history of the UNA has known many conventions wholly devoted to heated debates and discussions over problems concerning UNA's official press organ. The general concept of the UNA as a "union of ideas, efforts, and fields of action" is best reflected in its internal structural division: *Svoboda* Press represents the creative aspect of this association, generating ideas and disseminating knowledge and information; the spirit of unity and fraternalism, the source of our strength, is embodied in the organizational efforts of UNA's membership at large; UNA's financial resources, providing a strong material basis of operation in various spheres of action, represent the combined economic interests of all members; as such, they are the product of creative ideas, dedication, and plain hard work.



Calendar-Almanacs of the UNA and "Svoboda."

UNA's "third estate," the *Svoboda* Press, rose to unprecedented heights of development in the post-World War II period, gaining an ever greater momentum of growth since the 25th convention in 1962. Today, UNA's "third estate" consists of the Ukrainian-language daily *Svoboda*, the English-language *Ukrainian Weekly*, the children's monthly *Veselka*, extra supplement pages devoted to various Ukrainian American youth organizations, and the annual calendar-almanacs. Since the end of World War II, the UNA and the *Svoboda* Press published 16 almanacs, each ranging from 200 to 400 pages of print, and containing articles by some of the most distinguished writers of our time. Some of these almanacs, such as the collection "Ukrainians in the Free World," published in 1954 on the occasion of UNA's 60th anniversary, "Our Shevchenko," published in 1961, "The Shevchenko Almanac," published in 1964 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the poet's birth, "The Mazepa Almanac," published in 1959, "The Jubilee Almanac" published in 1953, the year of *Svoboda's* 60th anniversary, can be said to represent valuable contributions to the study of our past and to the development of contemporary Ukrainian political thought.

The value of UNA publications to the community of Ukrainians in the free world and to the ideals and aspirations of all Ukrainian people was clearly and eloquently expressed in 1963, the year *Svoboda* marked its 70th anniversary, *The Ukrainian Weekly* celebrated its 30th year of uninterrupted publication, and *Veselka* was entering its 10th year of continuous appearance. President John F. Kennedy—as in earlier years Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower—conveyed greetings to *Svoboda* on this anniversary occasion, as did numerous state governors and thousands of Ukrainian organizations the world over. Literally all Ukrainian publications in the free world marked this auspicious event and honored their "elder sister" on the festive occasion of her 70th jubilee anniversary. Expressing much of what was so eloquently stated in almost every Ukrainian newspaper this side of the Iron Curtain was an editorial article appearing in the Toronto weekly *Nasha Meta* (Our Aim) of October 12, 1963. Entitled "On the 70th Anniversary of *Svoboda*," the article reads as follows:

"In September of this year, seventy years have passed since the appearance of the first issue of *Svoboda* in Jersey City, U.S.A.,—organ of free Ukrainian word and thought—started by Ukrainian immigrants who left their enslaved homeland and settled here in the free land of George Washington. They came here in search of a new and better life, determined to render all possible help to the "Old Country" in its efforts to improve socio-economic conditions and gain political independence.

“Seventy years of **Svoboda’s** uninterrupted publication represent seventy years of constant vigilance over spiritual, moral, and national values of the Ukrainian immigrants in America, values which have allowed them to take an active part in the progress and development of America; those have been seventy years of hard and dedicated work of the Ukrainian immigrants for freedom and independence of the Ukrainian people in their native land. For seventy years **Svoboda** has been most closely associated with the interests of Ukrainian immigrants on the North American continent as well as those of the Ukrainian people in their native country.

“**Svoboda** has become the spokesman of all Ukrainians in defense of their national interests and political aspirations, and it is not at all surprising that its 70th anniversary generated such a happy and enthusiastic response in the Ukrainian community . . .

“In addition, **Svoboda**, technically and aesthetically impeccable, speaks to its readers in excellent Ukrainian and provides them with objective, interesting, and comprehensive articles. In this respect, too, **Svoboda**, is a foremost representative of the Ukrainian press in the free world.

“Congratulatory messages from high-ranking American public officials and leading Ukrainian organizations and individuals have been received on this rare occasion, honoring this exemplary press organ of the Ukrainian community.

“The editorial board of our newspaper joins hundreds of others in wishing its Great Sister many more years of continued success in its endeavors in behalf of the Ukrainian community in the free world and the entire Ukrainian people.”

Similar tributes honoring *Svoboda* on its 70th anniversary appeared in other Ukrainian newspapers, while numerous communities throughout the United States and Canada marked the event by staging appropriate programs attended by representatives of the American press.

The *Svoboda* daily and the entire “third estate” of the UNA owe their progress to the Association, thousands of its members, and to each duly elected Supreme Assembly. This is especially true of the present Supreme Assembly of the UNA.

Having secured the services and cooperation of some of the leading writers, scholars and journalists,—a number of editors of other Ukrainian newspapers are simultaneously correspondents of *Svoboda*,—and having at its disposal the best and the largest Ukrainian printing shop in the free world, *Svoboda*, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, the children’s monthly *Veselka*, and the entire “third estate” of the UNA are assured of further progress and development.

NEW VENTURES

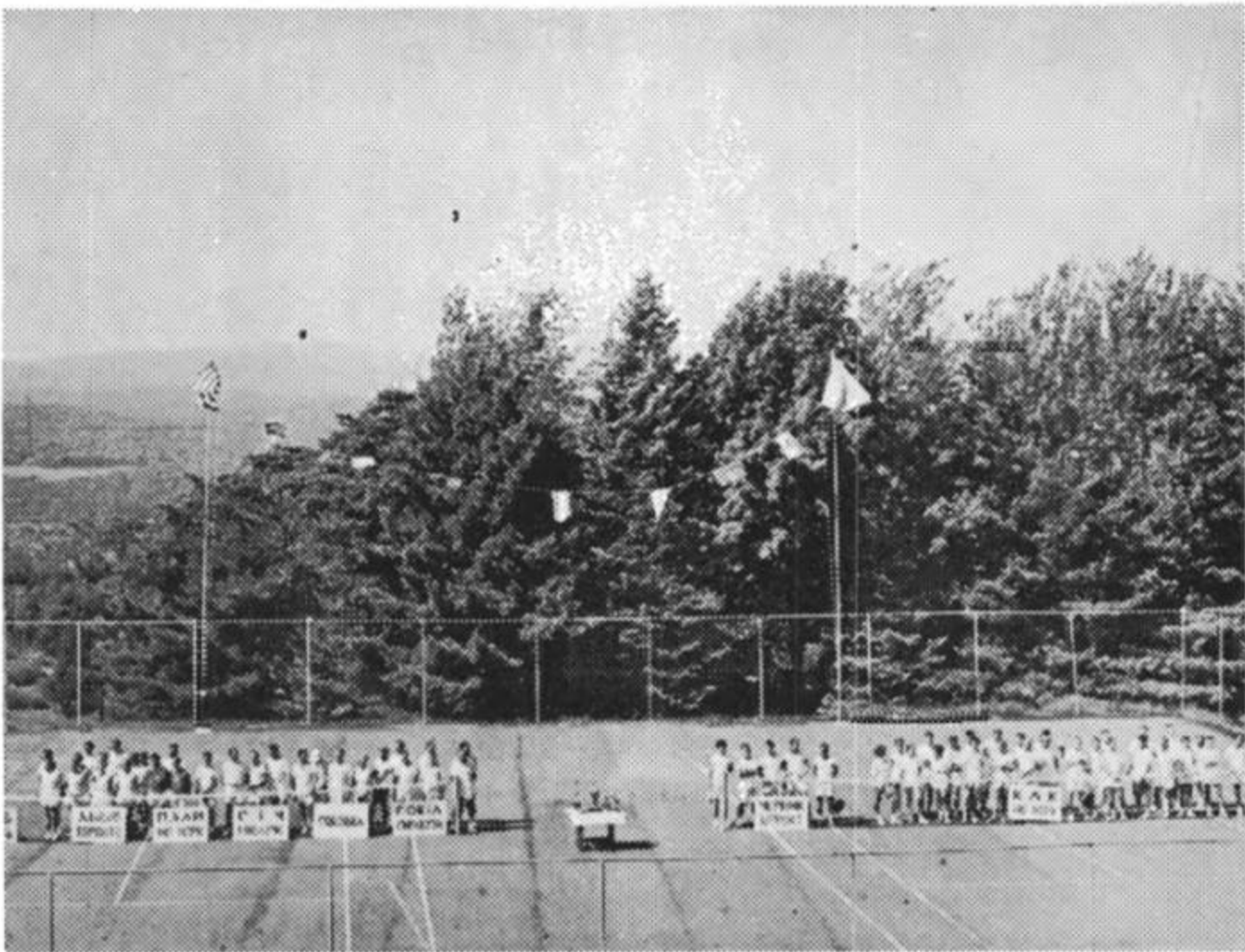
The great strides made by the UNA in the postwar period must be attributed in equal measure to both the American-born genera-

tion and the newly-arrived immigrants whose combined energies, resourcefulness, and unbending determination carried the organization to new and greater heights of progress and achievement. This was the period of new ventures, new projects undertaken by UNA's vigorous leadership in various areas of its activity.

"Soyuzivka." Acting in accord with the resolutions adopted by the conventions and sustained by the Supreme Assembly, particularly the resolution of the 16th convention held in Rochester in 1925, the UNA in 1952 purchased a large tract of property in the Catskill Mountains, near Kerhonkson, N.Y., approximately 100 miles from UNA Main Offices in Jersey City, N.J. The purchasing price was \$72,000. Until that time very few Ukrainians had heard about this area. Now, there is hardly a Ukrainian on the North American continent who has not seen or heard about the UNA resort *"Soyuzivka"* in the Catskills. Enlarged and improved at a cost of over half a million dollars, this resort has become the main center of Ukrainian social life and cultural activities, especially during the months of summer vacation. Each year in July and August *"Soyuzivka"* is the site of the Ukrainian Cultural Courses, which have graduated hundreds of students, and children's summer camps which also enjoy great popularity. Highlighting the regular weekend entertainment programs during the summer season are Saturday night concerts and variety shows featuring some of the best Ukrainian artists and performers. Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox chapels have been erected on the premises, and services are held every Sunday for the



Soyuzivka managers: Daniel Slobodian and Volodymyr Kwas



SOYUZIVKA—the beautiful **UNA** resort in the Catskills, which has become the center of cultural, social and athletic activity during the summer months.



Students attending the Ukrainian Cultural Courses learn the art of bandura playing. The Taras Shevchenko monument, seen in the background, is the work of Alexander Archipenko, world-famous sculptor.



Official unveiling of the Hetman Ivan Mazepa monument at Soyuzivka. Addressing the gathering is the Most Rev. Mstyslav Skrypnyk, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States. Seated first to the left of the monument is the late sculptor Serhiy Lytvynenko, who fashioned the monument.

benefit of guests, visitors, students, and children. The unmistakably Ukrainian character of "Soyuzivka" is further enhanced by two monuments erected in conspicuous places: the statue of Taras Shevchenko created in 1957 by the world-famous sculptor Alexander Archipenko, and the statue of Hetman Ivan Mazepa, created in 1963 by the outstanding Ukrainian sculptor Serhiy Lytvynenko. No wonder then that "Soyuzivka," which owes much of its success to its indefatigable managers Daniel Slobodian and Volodymyr Kwas, is justly called "a small part of Ukraine on free American soil." Much thought has been given in recent years to the establishment of a modern old age home here for UNA members.

Veselka. The 23rd convention of the UNA, held in Washington, D. C. in 1954, proposed that the Executive Committee "study and utilize all possibilities for the publication of both periodic and non-periodic literature for youth and children." Putting into effect the convention's resolution, the UNA started publishing the children's monthly *Veselka* in the very same year, first as a supplement of *Svoboda* and later as a separate illustrated monthly magazine under the joint editorship of Volodymyr Barahura, Roman Zavadovych, and Bohdan Hoshovsky, all members of the Society of Writers of Children's Literature. Steadily gaining in popularity over the ten-year period of its appearance, the magazine has contributed much in the way of preserving and cultivating the spirit of Ukrainian heritage in the hearts and minds of our children.

T. SHEVCHENKO MONUMENT IN WASHINGTON. One of the greatest events in the history of the Ukrainian community in America traces its origins to the Ukrainian National Association. We are referring, of course, to the Taras Shevchenko Monu-



Model of the Taras Shevchenko statue which was awarded first prize in an international contest. Designed by sculptor Leo Mol, the monument was erected in Washington, D. C., and unveiled in 1964.



**Dr. Volodymyr Kubijovych,
Editor-in-Chief of "Ukraine:
A Concise Encyclopaedia"**



**Prof. Clarence A. Manning,
author of numerous works on
Ukraine in the English language**

ment erected in Washington, D.C., and unveiled on June 27, 1964 by former President of the United States, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in the presence of close to 100,000 persons. The idea originated with the UNA Cultural Committee at one of its meetings in June, 1956. The 24th convention of the UNA, held in Cleveland in May 1958, approved the idea and instructed the Supreme Assembly to "enter into negotiations with other organizations and bring this project jointly to a successful conclusion." This task was accomplished in a most commendable manner.

UKRAINE: A CONCISE ENCYCLOPAEDIA. This monumental work, edited by Dr. Volodymyr Kubijovych, represents the crown-



**"Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopaedia,"
whose publication by the University of
Toronto was financed entirely by the
Ukrainian National Association.**

ing achievement of UNA's efforts in the field of publication. The first steps in preparing the work for publication were taken in 1952 on the initiative of Dr. V. Kubijovych, Dr. Luke Myshuha, Dmytro Halychyn, and Dr. Clarence A. Manning. The first volume of the encyclopaedia, which was published by the University of Toronto Press and financed by the UNA, appeared in November 1963. Much credit in this respect should go to UNA's young and energetic president, Joseph Lesawyer, who showed a great deal of understanding and determination in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

GREAT LOSSES

Little in this world can be accomplished without some sacrifice: wherever there are gains, there must also be losses. Moving constantly on the road to progress and ever greater achievements, the UNA suffered losses that were felt by the entire community of Ukrainian



Memorials on the graves of Dr. Luke Myshuha, Evergreen Cemetery in Newark, N. J., and Dmytro Halychyn, Calvary Cemetery in New York. First of the two memorials was fashioned by Alexander Archipenko.

Americans. Among those who passed away before their time were Dr. Luke Myshuha, *Svoboda's* editor-in-chief, who died in 1955; supreme presidents Nicholas Murashko (1949) and Dmytro Halychyn (1961); supreme secretary Gregory Herman (1957); Stephen Shumeyko (1963), long-time editor of *The Ukrainian Weekly*; and a number of other prominent UNA leaders who did much to strengthen their organization and to enhance the prestige of the Ukrainian people everywhere.

UNA CONVENTIONS AFTER WORLD WAR II

Since the end of World War II, the UNA has held five conventions, 21st through the 25th, the latter—in view of its “round” number—proclaimed a jubilee convention.

The 21st Convention was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., from March 25 through March 30, 1946, with 385 delegates and 20 supreme assembly officers in attendance (a total of 755 votes). Dr. Paul Dubas was elected chairman of the convention, John Evanchuk and Peter Kuchma, vice-chairmen, Volodymyr Hirniak and Maria Demydchuk served as secretaries.

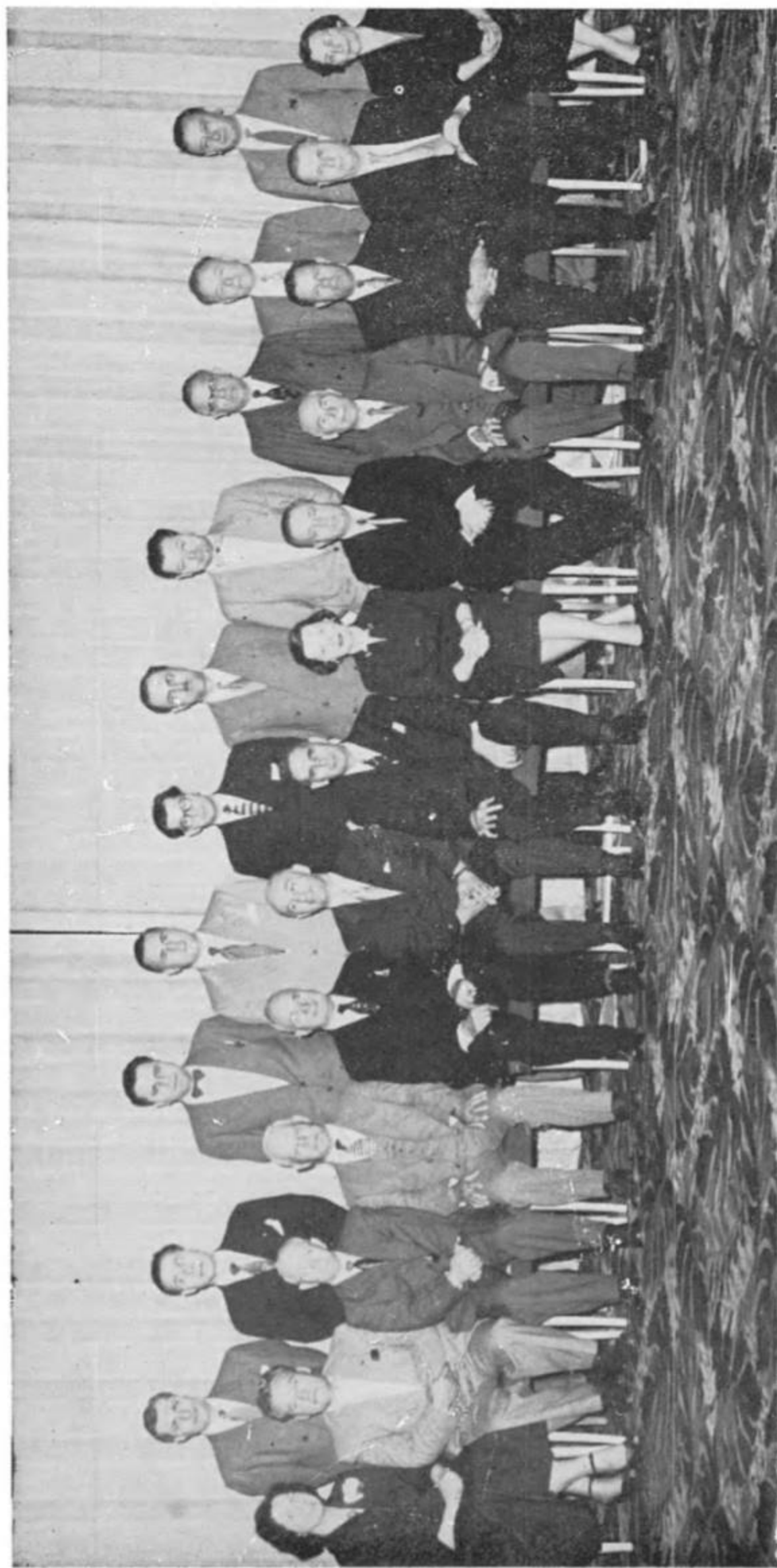
The reports indicated that UNA members helped the country's war effort by purchasing over 20 million dollars of U.S. bonds, and that 150 UNA members died while serving in the U.S. Army and Navy. The convention voted on payment of death benefits to the families of members who died in the war.

By the end of 1945, the UNA had 466 branches with a combined membership of 45,720 adults and juveniles. The assets amounted to \$7,789,243.33.

The convention sent a memorandum to President Harry S. Truman, calling his attention to the plight of the Ukrainian people in their native land.

The convention decided that only branches with a minimum of 45 members would be entitled to a delegate at the convention. Supplementary double indemnity clauses were made available for adult plans, and a new Class VI juvenile plan was instituted (Endowment upon attainment of 18th birthday). Another resolution called for an annual *Svoboda* press campaign, soliciting \$1.00 contributions from UNA members. The convention voted a \$12,300 appropriation to various cultural and educational institutions and activities, \$5,000 in relief aid to members, and \$1,600 in scholarships to Ukrainian students.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Nicholas Murashko, president; Gregory Herman and Maria Malievych, vice-pres-



UNA Supreme Assembly elected at the 22nd Convention in 1950. Seated, left to right: Anna Vasylovska, advisor, Volodymyr Hirniak, auditor, Volodymyr Kossar, auditor, Dmytro Kapitula, auditor, Roman Slobodian, Treasurer, Joseph Lesawyer, Vice-President, Dmytro Halychyn, President, Genevieve Zerebniak, Vice-Presidentess, Gregory Herman, Secretary, Dr. Luke Myshuha, "Svoboda" Editor-in-Chief, Stephen Kuropas, auditor, Dr. Ambrose T. Kibzey, auditor, Helen Shtogryn, advisor; standing, left to right: Peter Kuchma, advisor, Volodymyr Didyk, advisor, Taras Shpikula, advisor, John Kokolski, advisor, John Romanition, advisor, Dr. Ivan Vasylenko, advisor, William B. Hussar, advisor, Dmytro Szmagala, advisor, Nicholas Davyskyba, advisor, Stephen Shumeyko, Editor of "The Ukrainian Weekly."

idents; Dmytro Halychyn, secretary; Roman Slobodian, treasurer; auditors: Volodymyr Hirniak, John W. Evanchuk, Dmytro Kapitula, Dr. Ambrose T. Kibzey, and Stephen Kuropas; advisors: Paul Duda, John Romanition, John Kokolski, Genevieve Zepko, Taras Shpikula, Stephen Slobodian, Nicholas Davyskyba, Volodymyr Didyk, Dmytro Szmagala, Peter Kuchma, and Helen Shtogryn.

Supreme President Murashko died on August 3, 1949.

The 22nd Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio, from May 22 through May 27, 1950. It was opened by Gregory Herman, Acting Supreme President of the UNA. Attending the convention were 429 delegates and 20 supreme officers with a total of 909 votes. Paul Dubas was elected chairman of the convention, Roman Smuk and Maria Demydchuk, vice-chairmen, and Julian Baraniuk and Anne Wasylowska, secretaries.

The supreme officers' reports showed that by the end of 1949 the UNA had 472 branches, 56,009 members, and \$11,167,057.00 in assets.

The convention sent a letter to President Harry S. Truman, expressing gratitude for assistance to refugees and asking for support of the Ukrainian people in their struggle for liberation.

A series of important amendments to the by-laws were adopted at this convention: the general audit of UNA's assets should be held at least once a year; U.S. citizenship would not be required for election to the office of supreme advisor—evidence of an express desire to acquire U.S. citizenship would be sufficient; new dues tabulations were introduced, applicable to all certificates issued after July 1, 1950, based on a 3 per cent interest; Class 0-70 (Endowment at age 70) was abolished; a new type of certificate was issued, Class E 65 (Endowment at Age 65); the maximum amount of insurance was raised to \$5,000; membership eligibility age was raised from 55 to 60; the subscription rate for *Svoboda* was raised to 50 cents per month; branches having at least 60 members would be entitled to one convention delegate with one vote.

The convention recommended that the Supreme Assembly acquire within two years a property on which an old age home could be built. For this purpose the members were requested to contribute one dollar each.

The convention abolish UNA scholarships and decided to utilize the money for the payment of tuition to the Higher Educational Courses. A total of \$12,950 was voted for various public causes, \$2,010 for scholarships, and \$4,715 in relief aid to ailing and needy members.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Dmytro Halychyn, president, Joseph Lesawyer and Genevieve Zepko-Zerebniak, vice-presidents; Gregory Herman, secretary; Roman Slobodian, treasurer; auditors: Dmytro Kapitula, Stephen Kuropas, Volodymyr Hirniak, Volodymyr Kossar, and Dr. Amrose T. Kibzey; advisors: Dmytro Szmagala, John Romanition, Dr. I. Vasylenko, John Kokolski, Peter Kuchma, Walter Didyk, Nicholas Davyskyba, Taras Shpikula, Helen Shtogryn, Anna Vasylovska, and William B. Hussar.

The reports delivered at the Supreme Assembly's annual meeting in March 1951 indicated that by the end of 1950 the UNA had 473 branches, 61,520 members, and \$11,920,220.80 in assets. The Supreme Assembly appropriated \$500 for the publication of a book on Ukraine, \$3,000 to the UCCA National Fund, and \$1,000 to other public causes.

At the March 1952 meeting, the Supreme Assembly officers reported that the UNA had 476 branches, 65,790 members, and \$13,043,839.62 in assets. *Twentieth Century Ukraine*, a book by Clarence A. Manning, was published through the efforts of the UNA. The Assembly voted \$10,700 for charitable causes.

At a meeting of April 22, 1952 the Supreme Executive Committee decided to purchase the property in Kerhonkson, N.Y., with the view of building an old age home.

According to reports presented at the Supreme Assembly's meeting in May 1953, the UNA had 485 branches, 68,494 members, and \$14,110,917.73 in assets. The executive officers reported in detail on the purchase of the estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y., which was acquired for \$72,000. *Ukraine Under the Soviets*, another English language book on Ukraine, was published by the UNA. The Sunday edition of *Svoboda*, started in March, 1952, was changed into a bi-weekly supplement to the daily paper. The Supreme Assembly called for large-scale organization of UNA youth clubs and the establishment of Ukrainian Studies courses. A total of \$12,600 was appropriated for such projects as the publication of the Ukrainian encyclopaedia in English, the UCCA National Fund, and other public and charitable causes.

The 23rd Convention was held in the nation's capital from May 31 through June 5, 1954. One of the most impressive conventions in UNA's history, it was attended by 437 delegates with a total of 920 votes, in addition to 19 supreme officers each entitled to one vote. Atty. Michael Piznak was elected chairman of the convention, Dr. Walter Gallan and Liudmyla Ivchenko, vice-chairmen, Josephine Gibbons and Julian Baraniuk, secretaries.



UNA Supreme Assembly elected at the 23rd Convention in 1954. First row, left to right: Roman Slobodian, Treasurer, Michael Piznak, Vice-President, Dmytro Halychyn, President, Genevieve Zerebniak, Vice-Presidentess, Gregory Herman, Secretary; second row: Anthony Dragan, "Svoboda" Editor-in-Chief, John W. Evanchuk, Stephen Kuropas, Dr. Walter Gallan, auditors, Helen Shtogryn, advisor, Volodymyr Kossar, auditor, Maria Demydchuk, advisor, Peter Kuchma, auditor; third row: advisors John Kokolski, Anna Chopek, William B. Hussar, Dmytro Szmagala, Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, Andrew Jula, Volodymyr Didyk, Nicholas Davskyba, Taras Shpikula.

The reports presented by the supreme executive officers indicated that the UNA membership had increased to 70,221 and its assets to \$15,258,377.64. It was reported that the UNA had gained 27,257 new members over the four-year period, including approximately 21,000 from among the newly arrived immigrants, although the net increase amounted to 14,212 members after deduction of losses. The actual increase in assets over the same period amounted to \$4,091,320.55. In the field of publication, the UNA brought out two English-language books on Ukraine written by Clarence A. Manning and a Ukrainian novel, *Rai* (Paradise) by Vasyl Barka. A total of \$27,691.65 was

appropriated from the National Fund for various cultural and charitable causes in Europe and the United States.

In the course of the convention, the UNA Supreme Executive Committee, *Svoboda* editors, chairman and vice-chairman of the convention called on the U.S. Department of State and held a conference with the head of the East-European desk, discussing United States policy with regard to Ukraine and its struggle for liberation. A memorandum was sent to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. U.S. Government representatives at this conference were: Attorney General W. Rodgers and 17 Senators and Congressmen, including the then Senator John F. Kennedy and Joseph P. Martin, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A number of changes and statutory amendments were adopted at the Washington convention, designed to improve the internal structure of the organization and its role in the affairs of the Uk-

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| <p>CLASS OF SERVICE This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.</p> | <h1 style="margin: 0;">WESTERN UNION</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">TELEGRAM</h2> <p style="font-size: small;">W. P. MARSHALL, President</p> | <p>SYMBOLS DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter LT=International Letter Telegram</p> |
| <p>The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.</p> | | |

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26 220PME=

DMYTRO HALYCHYN, PRESIDENT UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (HOLD FOR ARRIVAL 5/26)=
26 PM 5 UA

CARE STATLER HOTEL (CARE ASST HOTEL MANAGER ON DUTY) CLEVE=

PLEASE GIVE MY GREETINGS TO ALL ATTENDING THE TWENTY-FOURTH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

¶ THROUGH THEIR TIES TO THE BEST OF UKRAINIAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, THE MEMBERS OF YOUR ASSOCIATION HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ENRICHMENT OF AMERICA. IN OUR UNIQUE SOCIETY, GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, WE SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE WIDE BENEFITS OF UNITY AND UNDERSTANDING.

¶ BEST WISHES FOR A MEMORABLE CONVENTION=

DWIGHT D EISENHOWER=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

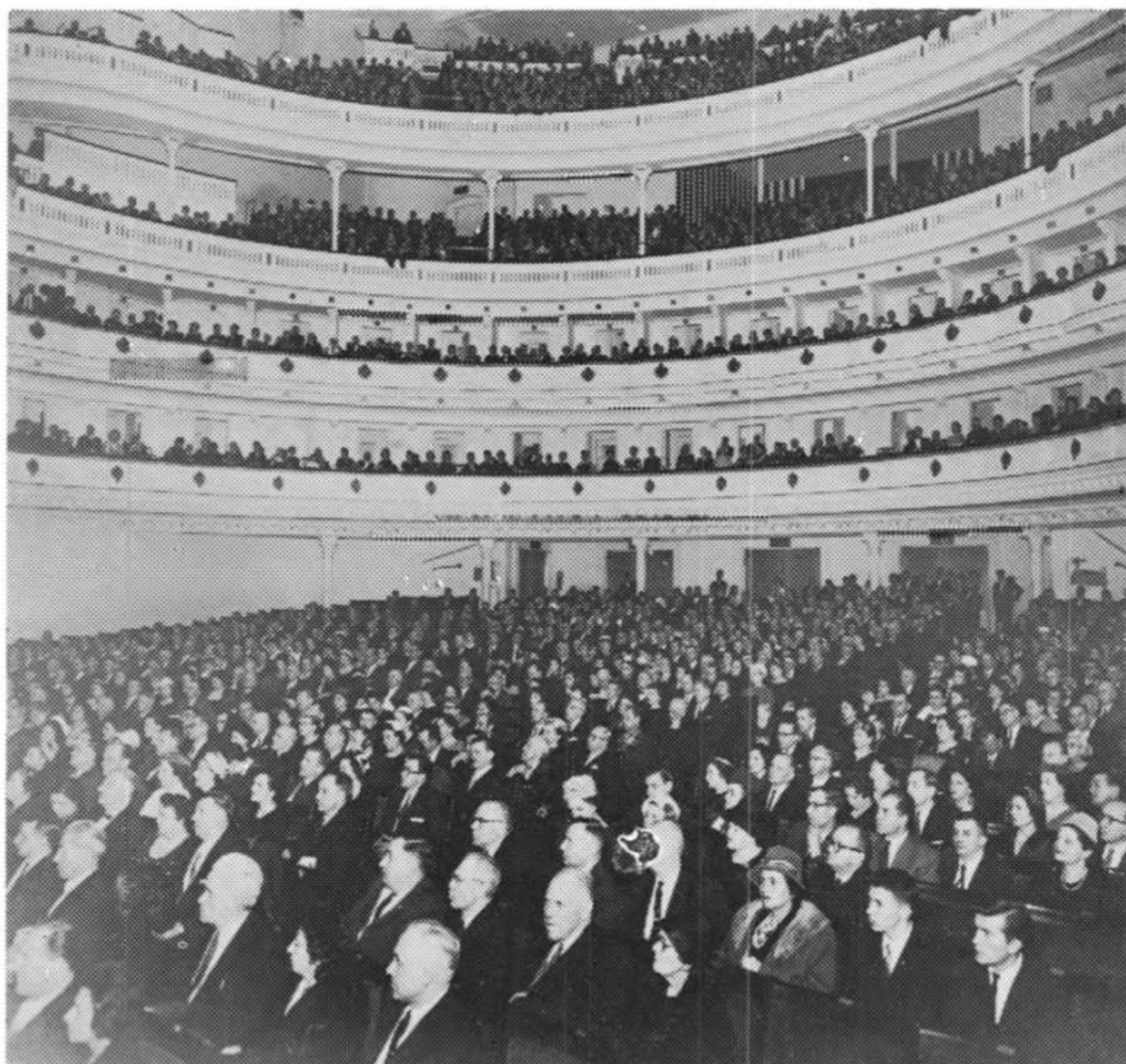
Message of greetings from President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the 24th Convention of the UNA in 1958.

rainian community. In order to attain the designated goal of 100,000 members, the convention decided to engage qualified organizers and intensify the efforts in the field. The convention approved the executive committee's purchase of the estate in Kerhonkson, N. Y., for \$72,000 (with an additional \$200,000 expenditure for repairs and improvements). The estate was to become the site of a home for the aged as well as youth camps and Ukrainian cultural courses. *Veselka* (The Rainbow) was to appear first as a supplement to *Svoboda*, but should the situation warrant it, it would then be published as a separate magazine. The convention voted an additional \$15,250 for various causes.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Dmytro Halychyn, president; Michael Piznak and Genevieve Zepko-Zerebniak, vice-presidents; Gregory Herman, secretary; Roman Slobodian, treasurer; auditors: Dr. Walter Gallan, Stephen Kuropas, John W. Evanchuk, Peter Kuchma, Volodymyr Kossar; advisors: Dmytro Szmagala, John



UNA Supreme Assembly elected at the 24th Convention in 1958. Seated, left to right: Dr. Walter Gallan, chairman of the auditing committee, Roman Slobodian, Treasurer, Anna Herman, Vice-Presidentess, Dmytro Halychyn, President, Joseph Lesawyer, Vice-President, Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, Secretary, Anthony Dragan, "Svoboda" Editor-in-Chief; second row, left to right: auditors Stephen Kuropas, Peter Pucilo, and Peter Kuchma; Bohdan Zorych, advisor, Volodymyr Kossar, auditor, John Kokolski, Dmytro Szmagala, Nicholas Davyskyba, Russel Huk, advisors; third row, left to right: advisors William B. Hussar, John Odezynsky, Anna Chopek, Taras Shpikula, Helen Shtogryn, Volodymyr Didyk, Andrew Jula.



York's Carnegie Hall filled to capacity during the observance of UNA's 65th anniversary in 1959.

Kokolski, Anne Chopyk, Maria Demydchuk, Andrew Jula, Taras Shpikula, Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, William B. Hussar, Volodymyr Didyk, Nicholas Davyskyba, Helen Shtogryn.

The 24th Convention, the third to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, convened May 26 through May 31, 1958. As in 1954 President Eisenhower sent his greetings to the convention, expressing acknowledgement and admiration for UNA's attachment "to the best of Ukrainian cultural and religious traditions" and its contribution "to the enrichment of America." Taking part in the proceedings were 419 delegates and 20 supreme officers, with a combined total of 846 votes. Presiding over the convention was Joseph Lesawyer, with Atty. Omar



Dr. Jaroslav Padoch,
first from among the newly arrived immigrants to be elected to the UNA Supreme Assembly. Elected to the post of advisor in 1954, Dr. Padoch has been UNA's Supreme Secretary since 1958.

Malicky and Dr. Vasyl Palidvor serving as vice-chairmen, and Dr. Peter Stercho and Walter T. Darmopray, as secretaries. Before the opening of the sessions, the delegates paid their respects to the memory of Dr. Luke Myshuha, Editor-in-Chief of *Svoboda*, and Gregory Herman, UNA Supreme Secretary, both of whom had died in the period since the last convention.

The reports showed that over the four-year period the UNA had gained a total of 14,688 new members, although the net increase, after deduction of losses suffered over the same period, amounted to 2,217 new members. By the end of the period, the UNA had a total of 72,438 members, and its assets amounted to \$20,366,992.10—an increase of \$5,108,614.46 since the 1954 convention.

Over the four-year period the UNA contributed a total of \$59,763.46 from its National Fund to various educational, cultural, and charitable causes in the United States and Europe.

In May 1955 the Supreme Executive Committee appointed Anthony Dragan Editor-in-Chief of *Svoboda* to fill the post vacated by Dr. L. Myshuha following his death in the same year. Mr. Dragan, associated with *Svoboda* since 1946, was acting Editor-in-Chief during Dr. Myshuha's illness.

The convention adopted a series of changes aimed largely at improvement of the organization. Some of the more important resolutions and recommendations to the Supreme Assembly, and particularly to the Supreme Executive Committee, were as follows: establishment of a center in Canada to promote, expand, and coordinate UNA activity there; to take all necessary steps in setting plans in motion for the erection of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, D.C., honoring Ukraine's poet-laureate on his 100th birth anniversary (1961); to adopt a pension plan for employees of the UNA and *Svoboda*; to look into the possibilities of operating a home for the aged at "Soyuzivka."

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Dmytro Halychyn, president; Joseph Lesawyer and Ann Herman, vice-presidents; Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, secretary; Roman Slobodian, treasurer; auditors: Volodymyr Kossar, Dr. Walter Gallan, Stephen Kuropas, Peter Kuchma, Peter Pucilo; advisors: Bohdan Zorych, Dmytro Szmagala, John Kokolski, Taras Shpikula, John Odezynsky, William B. Hussar, Anne Chopek, Andrew Jula, Helen Shtogryn, Volodymyr Didyk, Nicholas Davyskyba, Russell Huk.

One year before the 25th jubilee convention, the UNA and the Ukrainian community in the free world lost one of its foremost leaders, when Dmytro Halychyn died in April of that year as a result of a tragic accident in New York City. The UNA Supreme Assembly, acting on the powers provided by the by-laws, elevated Supreme Vice-President Joseph Lesawyer to the position of president, promoted Supreme Advisor Stephen Kuropas to the vacated post of supreme vice-president, and elevated Supreme Advisor John Kokolski to the Auditing Committee. In view of the upcoming convention, the post of one supreme advisor was left vacant.

The 25th Jubilee Convention was held in New York from May 21 through May 26, 1962, with 422 delegates and 21 supreme officers attending (a total of 856 votes). Atty. John O. Flis was elected chairman of the convention, while John W. Evanchuk and Genevieve Zerebniak served as vice-chairmen, and Dr. Peter Stercho and Walter T. Darmopravay, secretaries.

Greeting this 25th UNA jubilee convention were such prominent leaders as President John F. Kennedy, Prime Minister John F. Diefenbaker, the Most Rev. Ambrose Senyshyn, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, the Most Rev. John Theodorovich, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States, Dr. Stephen Wytwytsky, President of the Ukrainian National Republic in exile, and numerous other outstanding political and civic leaders of the American, Canadian, and Ukrainian organized life.

The supreme executive officers' reports showed that by the end of 1961 the UNA had a total of 81,441 members, insured for a sum of \$61,894,377 and organized into 489 branches in the United States and Canada.

Among important resolutions adopted by the delegates in the course of the sessions were those calling for the issuance of a term insurance plan and an accidental death and dismemberment policy; the establishment of a by-laws committee and a scholarship committee; the requirement that all branch secretaries subscribe to *Svoboda*, including those who were born in the United States or Canada; an increase in the number of supreme advisors from 12 to 14. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the UNA Canadian office director were outlined in a separate resolution. It was further reported that the UNA contributed a total of \$11,075 from its National Fund to various causes.

The Supreme Assembly was elected as follows: Joseph Lesawyer, president; Stephen Kuropas and Ann Herman, vice-presidents; Yaroslaw Padoch, secretary; Roman Slobodian, treasurer; auditors: Volodymyr Kossar, Walter Gallan, Peter Pucilo, John Kokolski, John W. Evanchuk; advisors: Bohdan Zorych, Bohdan Melnyk, Russell Huk, Taras Shpikula, Dmytro Szmagala, William B. Hussar, Andrew Jula, Anne Chopek, John Odezynsky, Helen Olek, Osypa Olinkevych, Myron Kuropas, Maria Demydchuk, Helen Shtogryn.

Before the convention, the UNA supreme officers and a number of delegates attended the blessing of the monument on the grave of the late Dmytro Halychyn at the Calvary Cemetery in New York.

Taking part in the gala convention banquet and delivering brief speeches were the Most. Rev. Mstyslav, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the Most Rev. Joseph Schmondiuk, Bishop of the Stamford Ukrainian Catholic Diocese, Senator Jacob K. Javits, Richard J. Hughes, Governor of New Jersey, and Dr. Lev E. Dobriansky, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

VII. THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

The 25th jubilee convention, held in New York in May 1962, heralded a new era in the development of the Ukrainian National Association. There was no sign of any "crisis" at this convention, as was often the case in the past. On the contrary, the reports, discussions, and results of the convention proceedings indicated that the UNA was passing through one of the greatest periods in its history, having risen to unprecedented heights of development in terms of both membership and assets. Keeping abreast of the times and constantly adapting its structure and policy to the needs of the rapidly changing world, the UNA could justly claim to have evolved into one of the largest and most modern organizations of its kind. Substantial progress was being made in virtually every area of activity. There was a sharp increase in publicational production; improvements and construction of modern facilities at "Soyuzivka" had been completed; steady gains were being recorded in Canada; UNA's relations with other Ukrainian organizations in the United States and Canada had become stabilized and reached a new level of mutual respect and cooperation. In short, the 25th convention demonstrated most clearly that the UNA had matured in all respects and developed into a veritable Ukrainian "rock of Gibraltar" on the American and Canadian soil. The old adage that "what fire does not destroy, it tempers" had been proven once again. Indeed, the over-all picture of the UNA, revealed at this the 25th jubilee convention, was that of an organization tempered by years of struggle and experience, unshaken in its determination to serve its members, the community, and the Ukrainian people at large, fully aware of its immense responsibilities and ready to move ahead to the challenging tasks in pursuit of progress and achievement.

In this sense, the 25th convention can be said to have ushered in a new era in the development of the UNA, as clearly manifested by the vigorously intensified activity in the immediate post-convention period. There is little doubt that the onset of this "new era" is most intimately connected with the change of leadership, as eloquently described by the late President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural address of January, 1961, when he stated that the torch of leadership in

America was passing over into the hands of a new generation, born and raised in the twentieth century, hardened by two great wars and a number of smaller wars, and moving towards new frontiers, including the yet unexplored vastness of space. The UNA experienced a similar "change of guard," when even prior to the 1962 convention the organization's leadership was assumed by the then Supreme Vice-President Joseph Lesawyer, following the tragic death of Supreme President Dmytro Halychyn in April of 1961. Elected to the post of president by the Supreme Assembly at its annual meeting in 1961, J. Lesawyer was re-elected at the 25th convention in May 1962. In his acceptance speech, delivered before the Supreme Assembly on May 25, 1961, J. Lesawyer described in clear and cogent terms the onset of this new era, which he may be said to have ushered in upon assumption of leadership with all of the attendant powers and responsibilities. The speech read as follows:

"On occasions such as this, one is at a loss for words. What can I say—how can I say it? It's a story that goes far far back in my life. Before I had learned to read, I had heard the word "Svoboda" and recognized the newspaper when I saw it. As I grew older, I read the name on the paper written in English but the Ukrainian letters confused me until my parents taught me the Ukrainian alphabet with the aid of an illustrated primer. Whenever my father's friends got together I would hear the discussions about *Soyuz*. UNA or the Ukrainian National Association were terms that were awe-inspiring in those days. They represented that colossus that stood astride every important Ukrainian community in America, and like a shining light beckoned all of our people to a better way of life. To become Supreme President of that mighty organization could not even be a dream—it was that remote and far away. Yet it happened today. It couldn't have been possible anywhere except in miracle countries such as the United States and Canada.

"I am honored beyond expression by the election to the post of President. To fill the shoes of our past great presidents such as Mr. Murashko or Mr. Halychyn is impossible. They were unique men in unique times. They will never be duplicated. To me as their follower, new roads are open. I shall devote myself fully to the task ahead and try to do as well in meeting the new situations as they did in their time. In this undertaking I am cheered by the presence of colleagues such as Mr. Slobodian, who has served our Association for over forty years and whose steady hand and wisdom I shall always welcome. It is comforting to know that a veteran such as Mr. Stephen Kuropas, our new Vice-President, is on the team as well as the enthusiastic Vice-Presidentess, Mrs. Ann Herman. Finally, it is a rare pleasure to be associated with our energetic Supreme Secretary, Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, who has supplied and will continue to supply the dynamism that we need for greater progress.

"We have a well balanced and strong team and we need it to overcome the formidable problems ahead. We are faced with conditions that are dif-



Joseph Lesawyer,
twelfth Supreme President of the UNA and first American-born Ukrainian
to hold that post.

ferent and people that are different. We have youth set to the tempo of electronics, automation, and outer space. Speed is no longer measured in terms of 100 miles per hour, but around the world in 90 minutes. We have students in universities and colleges numbering in thousands. Brilliant and progressive, they are tomorrow's unquestionable leaders in their chosen fields, just as they are the honored students of today. Thirdly, we have the hard-working, well-trained newcomers who include many professions in their ranks. To harness this vast potential into a cooperative force for their own individual betterment; for the betterment of the lot of our kinsmen in Ukraine and their eventual freedom and independence; and for the solution of many more problems that will come up, we cannot act merely as individuals; we cannot do it as small cliques; and we cannot do it properly even with our present membership of 79,600.

"What we are faced with requires more strength, more resources, more ideas, and more members. Our resolutions that were adopted today set the present sights for 100,000 members. "Impossible," say all too many of our people. "You are shooting for the moon." Yes we are and, I might add, so is President Kennedy. He expects to get there and back in the not-too-distant future. We, on the other hand, expect to hit our target and not fall back. We are going to keep on moving ahead. But this can only be done with your complete help and cooperation. If you, all our secretaries and members, cooperate in this great effort on an all-year basis in the spirit displayed at this annual meeting, our future is assured. We will not fail."

The election of Joseph Lesawyer to the post of UNA supreme president was the culminating point in the logical and natural transition of leadership from the older to the younger generation. This process actually began in the period between the two world wars, when for the first time several leaders of the American-born generation joined the older pioneers on the Supreme Assembly of the UNA.

Natural and perhaps inevitable as it was, the process continued in the years following World War II, when Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch became the first representative of the newly-arrived immigrants on the UNA Supreme Assembly, elected to the post of supreme advisor at the 1954 convention. In 1958 Dr. Padoch was elected Supreme Secretary of the UNA at the convention in Cleveland.

The very first months of J. Lesawyer's tenure in office showed clearly that the new president intended to waste little time in moving ahead with the implementation of ideas and plans set forth in his acceptance speech. Positive in thinking, forceful in approach, and determined in execution, J. Lesawyer succeeded in generating the necessary drive and enthusiasm that carried the organization to new heights of progress and achievement. The results were not long in coming. Entering the jubilee year 1964, the UNA had a total of 83,940 members and \$28,294,732.95 in assets.

In his first appeal to the Ukrainian community in the United States calling for the establishment of the Ukrainian National Association ("We Need a National Organization," *Svoboda*, November 1, 1893), Rev. Gregory Hrushka said that "if this idea, this concept, becomes a reality, the future generations, born in this land of the free, will thank us and remember us kindly, and adorn our graves with flowers nursed by tears of joy and gratitude..."



Memorial erected on the grave of Rev. Gregory Hrushka, founder of "Svoboda" and the UNA, in the village Peniaky, Western Ukraine.

Indeed, the dream did come true, the idea became a fact, the vision found its fulfillment in what is today the largest Ukrainian organization in the Free World—the Ukrainian National Association. May this little booklet, published on the 70th anniversary of the UNA, be our humble expression of tribute and gratitude to the men who gave birth to this great idea and made it a reality, to those who followed staunchly in their footsteps, and to those who today carry on the work of their forebears with unrelenting vigor, pride, and dedication.

UNA CONVENTIONS

| No. | Year | City | Membership | Assets |
|-----|------|--------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | 1894 | Shamokin, Pa. | 439 | 220.35 |
| 2 | 1895 | Olyphant, Pa. | 439 | 605.60 |
| 3 | 1896 | Mt. Carmel, Pa. | 587 | 756.96 |
| 4 | 1897 | Mayfield, Pa. | 1,019 | 2,944.93 |
| 5 | 1898 | Shenandoah, Pa. | 1,593 | 5,688.57 |
| 6 | 1900 | Pittsburgh, Pa. | 3,067 | 10,184.40 |
| 7 | 1902 | Jersey City, N. J. | 3,384 | 14,252.19 |
| 8 | 1904 | Shamokin, Pa. | 5,875 | 17,993.34 |
| 9 | 1906 | Scranton, Pa. | 7,888 | 23,705.34 |
| 10 | 1908 | Philadelphia, Pa. | 8,795 | 46,071.26 |
| 11 | 1910 | Cleveland, O. | 14,430 | 100,388.87 |
| 12 | 1912 | Wilkes-Barre, Pa. | 14,917 | 140,530.46 |
| 13 | 1914 | Buffalo, N. Y. | 25,335 | 261,729.46 |
| 14 | 1917 | Harrisburg, Pa. | 11,891 | 432,012.56 |
| 15 | 1920 | Philadelphia, Pa. | 12,237 | 586,317.98 |
| 16 | 1925 | Rochester, N. Y. | 18,195 | 1,334,415.47 |
| 17 | 1929 | Newark, N. J. | 21,286 | 2,191,786.65 |
| 18 | 1933 | Detroit, Mich. | 20,702 | 3,514,382.35 |
| 19 | 1936 | Washington, D. C. | 30,335 | 4,489,305.96 |
| 20 | 1941 | Harrisburg, Pa. | 38,167 | 5,926,167.04 |
| 21 | 1946 | Pittsburgh, Pa. | 45,720 | 8,412,029.14 |
| 22 | 1950 | Cleveland, O. | 56,983 | 11,167,057.09 |
| 23 | 1954 | Washington, D. C. | 70,221 | 15,258,377.64 |
| 24 | 1958 | Cleveland, O. | 72,438 | 20,366,992.10 |
| 25 | 1962 | New York, N. Y. | 81,441 | 25,460,819.06 |

UNA SUPREME EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENTS

1. THEODOSIY TALPASH ----- (1894-1895)
2. IVAN GLOVA ----- (1895-1898)
3. YURIY KHYLIK ----- (1898-1900)
4. REV. ANTHONY BONCHEVSKY ----- (1900-1902)
5. REV. NICHOLAS STEPANOVYCH ----- (1902-1904)
6. CONSTANTINE KYRCHIV ----- (1904-1908 and 1917-1920)
7. DMYTRO KAPITULA ----- (1908-1917)
8. SEMEN YADLOVSKY ----- (1920-1925)
9. THEODORE HRYTSEY ----- (1925-1929)
10. NICHOLAS MURASHKO ----- (1929-1949)
11. DMYTRO HALYCHYN ----- (1950-1961)
12. JOSEPH LESAWYER ----- (1961-)

VICE-PRESIDENTS

1. MICHAEL YEVCHAK ----- (1894-1895)
2. THEODOSIY TALPASH ----- (1895-1896)
3. OLEKSIY KURYLE ----- (1896-1897)
4. PETER SEKERAK ----- (1897-1898)
5. IVAN DOBOSH ----- (1898-1900)
6. OLEKSIY SHARSHON ----- (1900-1902)
7. MICHAEL KRAVCHYSHYN ----- (1902-1904)
8. S. MYTRENKO ----- (1904-1906)
9. IVAN PARYLIK ----- (1906-1908)
10. T. KULCHYTSKY-GUT ----- (1908-1910)
11. IVAN MORTON ----- (1910-1912)
12. VASYL SUVAK ----- (1912-1914)
13. IVAN VAVERCHAK ----- (1914-1917)
14. ANDREW STEFANOVYCH ----- (1917-1920)
15. THEODORE HRYTSEY ----- (1920-1925)
16. MICHAEL UHORCHAK ----- (1925-1929)
17. VASYL HRYSHKO ----- (1929-1933)
18. VOLODYMYR MALEVYCH ----- (1933-1937)
19. GREGORY HERMAN ----- (1937-1950)
20. JOSEPH LESAWYER ----- (1950-1954 and 1958-1961)
21. MICHAEL PIZNAK ----- (1954-1958)
22. STEPHEN KUROPAS ----- (1961-)

VICE-PRESIDENTESSES

1. MARIA CHEREMSHAK ----- (1908-1912)
2. MARIA BILYK ----- (1912-1920)
3. MARIA OLSHANETSKA ----- (1920-1929 and 1933-1937)
4. JULIA BAVOLIAK ----- (1929-1933)
5. MARIA MALIEVYCH ----- (1937-1950)
6. GENEVIEVE ZEPKO-ZEREBNIAK ----- (1950-1958)
7. ANNA HERMAN ----- (1958-)

SECRETARIES

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | REV. IVAN KONSTANKEVYCH | (1894-1895) |
| 2. | REV. NESTOR DMYTRIV | (1895-1896) |
| 3. | REV. NICHOLAS STEFANOVYCH | (1896-1897) |
| 4. | REV. IVAN ARDAN | (1897-1898) |
| 5. | REV. ANTHONY BONCHEVSKY | (1898-1900) |
| 6. | DENYS PYRCH | (1900-1904) |
| 7. | SEMEN YADLOVSKY | (1904-1910) |
| 8. | MICHAEL UHORCHAK | (1910-1920) |
| 9. | IVAN KASHTANIUK | (1920-1933) |
| 10. | DMYTRO HALYCHYN | (1933-1950) |
| 11. | GREGORY HERMAN | (1950-1957) |
| 12. | JAROSLAW PADOCH | (1958-) |

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------------|
| 1. | J. KULCHYTSKY | (1904-1906) |
| 2. | T. LABOVSKY | (1906-1912) |
| 3. | S. YADLOVSKY | (1912-1920) |
| 4. | R. SLOBODIAN | (1920-1933) |

TREASURERS

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. | IVAN GLOVA | (1894-1895) |
| 2. | YURIY KHYLIK | (1895-1898) |
| 3. | KINDRAT KOTANCHYK | (1898-1900) |
| 4. | OLEKSIY SHARSHON | (1900-1917) |
| 5. | VASYL LEVCHYK | (1917-1933) |
| 6. | ROMAN SLOBODIAN | (1933-) |

"SVOBODA" EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | REV. GREGORY HRUSHKA | (1893-1895) |
| 2. | REV. NESTOR DMYTRIV | (1895-1897) |
| 3. | REV. STEPHEN MAKAR | (1897-1900) |
| 4. | REV. IVAN ARDAN | (1900-1907) |
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