The 66th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention was truly a celebration of the UOL family. For 66 years UOL members have gathered together for the Annual UOL Convention. A true family in Christ, the Ukrainian Orthodox League is a unique organization with families both young and old gathering together as one family united in the Church. Exemplifying the convention motto, “O Lord, how manifold are Your works, in wisdom You have made them all,” UOL delegates and guests gathered in Parma, Ohio at the Embassy Suites Hotel to review the accomplishments of the past year and to make plans for the upcoming year. In addition to the business sessions, the UOL Convention served as a time to rekindle friendships and to make new ones.

On Wednesday July 24, both the Senior and Junior National Executive Boards held their pre-convention meetings. Registration was opened on Wednesday and coordinated by Pani Matka Mary Anne Nakonachny. Throughout the Convention the Registration room was wonderfully helpful with directions, suggestions, great conversation and always welcoming. This year the Convention bag was particularly beautiful, a bright aqua with the UOL logo.

This year the Convention started on Wednesday evening when President Martha Misko called the 66th Annual Convention to order. The presentation of colors and National Anthem was followed by a moment of silence in honor of UOL members of Blessed Memory. The Convention started with opening remarks from President Martha Misko, Junior UOL President Liz Hershey, Convention Chairwoman Melanie Nakonachny and Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Nakonachny.

As part of the first business session committees met for the first time. Convention committees met to discuss important issues within our chapters and parishes as well as to make goals and objectives for the Executive Board and local chapters. Several committees were for Senior delegates including: Vocations and Clergy Support, Ways and Means, Nominating, and Resolutions. There were also several committees that were combined Junior-Senior Committees: Christian Caregiving and Missions, Youth, Membership & Chapter Development and Education.

(Continued on page 4)
rendition, not to the speed at which it is sung. Priests or choir directors who pace and I came to learn that this is the usual practice in Slavic monasteries. As a final example, I remember my experience at New Valamo monastery in Finland. The services and the monastic chanting went along at a fairly fast pace. I was doing Jerusalem Matins, one of my favorite services. The cantor and priest so dragged out each verse that I was champing at the bit to get out as quickly as possible. In the past I visited an O.C.A. parish that was not prayerful as they had been used to experience. Prayerful singing is indeed the goal in Orthodox church worship, but I believe the reasoning given in the question supporting slowly rendered singing is totally erroneous. In my home parish, years ago, we had a choir director whose singing was quite acceptable. In fact, really swift singing is mandated for the Orthodox church singing should present a seamless effect. There should not be pauses for pitches at each response nor should there be any silent ‘down-words’ in the music. The music was sung at a moderate speed, but the rendition of it was characterized by the people as “molitvenni” (prayerful). That referred to the quality and tone of the singing without reference to speed. Our next choir director used different compositions and arrangements, all of which were certainly louder, a bit brash and bombastic, and at the same time rather diverting. The music was colorful, perhaps better suited to a concert, but the people noted that it was not prayerful as they had been used to experience.

Orthodox church singing should present a seamless effect. There should not be pauses for pitches at each response nor should there be any silent ‘down-time’ between hymns. Moderate speed should be maintained, but even swift singing is quite acceptable. In fact, really swift singing is mandated for the parish services. The Paschal services, otherwise known as the RUSH service, expect that chants from the priest as well as the choir should be rendered in double time. The priest as he incenses should do this in double-time just as he gives the Paschal greeting.

I have pronounced and phrased, quick singing can be very intelligible and understood. Slow singing unnecessarily prolongs services, which become boring to the worshippers. Yawns and shuffling feet are a sign that you have lost the congregation’s attention. In the past I visited an O.C.A. parish that was doing Jerusalem Matins, one of my favorite services. The cantor and priest so dragged out each verse that I was champing at the bit to get out as quickly as possible. Such a negative experience may serve to drive away parishioners. I am sure that next year, families would think twice rather than go to Jerusalem Matins at that place.

As a final example, I remember my experience at New Valamo monastery in Finland. The services and the monastic chanting went along at a fairly fast pace and I came to learn that this is the usual practice in Slavic monasteries. Recapitulating, a prayerful choral service refers to the tone and quality of its rendition, not to the speed at which it is sung. Priests or choir directors who espouse a slow and draggly manner of singing are doing their parishers a grave disservice.
67th Annual UOL Convention
Why YOU Should Attend the Convention in 2014

What better time to make a commitment to attend the Convention than now. As you are reading about the Convention in Parma, Ohio and thinking either, “what a great time I had,” or “wow, I wish I had attended,” this is the time to make a commitment to attend. As you are reading about the Convention and getting inspired, or thinking about your wonderful friendships, make a pledge to attend the Convention in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

The UOL Convention is a time to get inspired and to learn about other chapters, to see old friends and make new friends. If you have attended a UOL Convention in the last 66 years, take a moment to think about a fond Convention Memory. 

Perhaps you thought about attending Conventions as a Junior and the wonderful friends you had. 

Perhaps you recall inspirational words from a keynote speaker or from our Hierarchs. 

Perhaps you remember a night on a riverboat looking out at a skyline of a big city. 

Perhaps you thought about a kolomeyka with dancers outdancing each other and you were part of the mix. 

Perhaps you remember singing together during Divine Liturgy. 

Perhaps you think of dear friends who inspired you with their kind words . 

All of these memories are associated with UOL Conventions. When you think of those memories, consider making a commitment to rekindle those wonderful warm feelings and come to the UOL Convention in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. This is the moment to make the decision to attend the UOL Convention. Write it down in your calendar and start thinking of attending the Convention.

If you have been attending Conventions regularly, you know the great joy of seeing friends who are active in their parish and chapter. We gain inspiration and energy from each other. The Convention is that family reunion that rekindles the spirit, and recharges the spirit to continue working in your parish and chapter. Inspiration is similar to a flame that grows. The UOL Convention is the flame that inspires and rekindles our faithful.

There is no other organization that has young and old working together. There have been times when hotel workers comment on the joy of the organization where we have members interacting together with Christian love.

If you have never attended a UOL Convention, you might be saying, “Why should I attend? How does the UOL Convention impact me and my parish?” Well, the UOL Convention is the one time during the year when everyone gets a chance to learn from others and to develop a family in Christ. To see people each year is a joy. To be a part of the UOL Family and the joy associated with learning more about our faith, as well as to gain inspiration from the faithful who serve within churches throughout the country, rekindles the light.

Why should you come to South Bound Brook? Well if you have been to South Bound Brook you know it is central to our UOC of USA. You know that it houses our Consistory and Seminary. If you have not been in years you might never have seen the Seminary and you can get to know some of our newest chapter members, who are currently at St. Sophia Seminary in South Bound Brook. Our church center has an extraordinary history and collection of items from the history of our church. As we look forward in the growth of our church it is always important to reflect on the wisdom of our forefathers and those who founded the UOL. If you read the UOL mission statement it is absolutely amazing. In South Bound Brook you can learn more about the history of our church and see historic items from our church.

Our UOL founders set the guidelines and goals - to be dedicated to our church and devoted to its youth. It is now our mission to fulfill. We are all part of the mission. How to get our church to grow – it is through participating in this organization that is dedicated to our church and devoted to its youth.

So make your plans now. Mark your calendar.

NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR UOL
PRESIDENT
Kateryna Kocelko
Glory to Jesus Christ!

My name is Kateryna Kocelko and I am the 2013-2014 President of the Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League. First I would like to give my sincere congratulations and thanks to the Junior and Senior chapters of Saint Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio for hosting the 66th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention this year. The Convention Chairs, Juniors, Seniors, and entire parish did a fantastic job. It was a very successful and spiritually enriching week.

I would like to extend my thanks to Elizabeth Hershey for her hard work and commitment as president last year, and to the entire executive board last year for their commitment to God and the UOL. I also congratulate our graduates and hope you continue to stay close to the faith and the UOL. Lastly I would like to thank our advisors Tabitha Houck and Rev. Father Anthony Ugolnik, for all of their time and help they gave us last year.

Now, it is with great honor that I introduce to you the newly elected National Executive Board of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League for the 2013-2014 year along with committee and liaison assignments. Please feel free to contact any of us at any point throughout the year.

President: Kateryna Kocelko- South Side, PA
Committee: Pys’h Travel Grant and Convention Yearbook
Liaisons: South Side, PA and Carnegie, PA

Vice President: Christopher Holowko- Maplewood, NJ
Committee: Technology
Liaisons: Maplewood, NJ, Carteret, NJ and Philadelphia, Pa

Recording Secretary: Katherine Anderson- Youngstown, OH
Committee: Christian Care giving and Missions
Liaisons: Parma, OH and Youngstown, OH

Corresponding Secretary: Betty Abrahamson- Woonsocket, RI
Committee: Membership and Chapter Development
Liaisons: Woonsocket, RI and Boston, MA

Financial Secretary: Sarah Hershey- Coatesville, PA
Committee: Culture and Education
Liaisons: Palos Park, IL, Northampton, PA, Johnson City, NY

Treasurer: Kira Kuzmenchuk- Coatesville, PA
Committee: Fundraising
Liaisons: Southfield, MI and Coatesville, PA

In order for this to be a successful year, the board has to do their part, but the individual chapters also have to be active and keep up. Communication is key. Please do not be afraid to contact your liaison or any board member with questions. The deadline for the complete and updated roster, as well as when chapter and member dues are due is September 30th. Please make sure that the forms are all completely filled out so we can keep all chapters up to date with information.

Good luck to all of the chapters this year and I pray everyone has a successful year and I ask you to pray for my fellow board members and me.

Yours in Christ,
Kateryna Kocelko

67th Annual UOL Convention
July 23-27, 2014
South Bound Brook, New Jersey

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The warmth and hospitality of the Parma Chapter was evident in the evening event chaired by Michael Nakonachny. The hospitality room was crowded with UOL members catching up with old friends. Food is always a highlight of Conventions in Parma and this year was no exception. The hospitality room had the beds transformed into two huge appetizer and dessert trays. The room was overflowing with delicious treats.

Thursday morning everyone gathered at St. Vladimir’s Cathedral for Divine Liturgy. His Grace Bishop Daniel celebrated Divine Liturgy. This year all Convention participants joined in communal singing of the Divine Liturgy under the direction of Markian Komichak.

Following Diving Liturgy, all members joined for a full brunch. That afternoon the major work of the Convention sessions was completed. This included the approval of the 65th Annual UOL Convention Minutes, review of the Annual Report 2012-2013, Audit Report, and review and approval of Financial Report 2012-2013 that also included the acceptance of a 2013-2014 Budget.

There were continued committee meetings where the bulk of the Convention work takes place. During committee meetings ideas for projects for the National Executive Board, as well as ideas for individual chapters, are discussed. After the individual committees met and discussed appropriate topics, each submitted a report to the convention body for final ratification.

During the business session, President Misko presented Fr. Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay with a check in the amount of $4,055 for St. Andrew’s Society for soup kitchens in Ukraine. These funds were raised as part of the UOL’s Souper Bowl Sunday fund-raising project.

President Misko also presented His Grace Bishop Daniel with a check in the amount of $2,025 for St. Sophia Seminary. These funds were raised as part of St. Thomas Sunday Pilgrimage parking.

On Thursday, Paul Finley from FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians who Serve) spoke to the Convention body about the role of missionary work and presented information about FOCUS, an orthodox outreach program that exists in several cities in the United States. His words inspired everyone to think of ways that we can reach out to those in need.

Juniors came to the Senior UOL sessions and shared their projects with the convention body.

Following a long day of meetings all delegates were ready for a fun filled evening. Thursday evening the UOL family gathered at the Cleveland aquarium and UOL members had a chance to enjoy the beautiful displays. Toward the end of the walk there was an opportunity to walk through a tube with sharks gathering around. Following a fun self-paced tour all members gathered on the top floor of the aquarium for a delicious meal and dancing.

While in the aquarium members had a chance to take pictures with props including sharks, fish and squids. There was also a t-shirt that could have been a motto for a UOL Convention, “Come crabby, leave happy!”

Dinner was a wonderful buffet with another huge dessert tray. Following dinner everyone joined on the dance floor and danced the night away. It was a wonderful evening.
On Friday the business sessions continued with reports from each of the committees being approved. A highlight of the Convention was the filming of the first ever UOL video. Adam Kennedy from St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, PA, interviewed UOL members as well as taped aspects of the UOL Convention to create a video that can be used for membership and chapter development. It is planned for the video to be debuted at the Sobor.

The UOL Education Committee suggested a project “It takes a deanery,” to build networks between different members of our deanery parishes. The UOL is a unique organization within the UOC of USA that creates bridges between parishes. Given the history of the UOL in building community, the UOL can be used to build deaneries and networks within deaneries, so that they can share best practices and lessons learned. This would include building connections between: Choir directors and choir members, Parish board officers, Parish financial officers, Religious education departments (Sunday School), Bible Study and Altar Servers. Organized as deanery events, specific activities will be organized by the UOL Education Commission to encourage sharing of information and building a community in Christ.

The Chapter Challenge, as always, was a wonderful time to see Junior knowledge about our Faith.

Christine Mills, Education Commission Chair, presented awards to all Essay Contest winners. This year 17 parishes were represented with 147 entries. St. Vladimir, Philadelphia had the greatest number of entries with 21. A list of all winners will be published in the October issue of the Bulletin.

During Friday sessions the UOL Constitution Change was presented. The constitution change that would allow Orthodox Christians who are not members of the UOC of USA to become members of the UOL was ratified. This would allow former members of the UOL who are in areas where UOC of USA parishes do not exist to join the UOL. The constitutional change did add that only members of the UOC of USA can be delegates and run for the National Executive Board of the UOL.

Sessions started winding down with the election of officers, those individuals challenged to fulfill the goals set at this UOL Convention. The Officers of the Senior UOL Executive Board – 2013-2014:
President- Michael Komichak, Maplewood, NJ
First VP- Natalie Bilinsky, Philadelphia, PA
Second VP- Joshua Oryhon, Philadelphia, PA
Corresponding Secretary- PM Laryssa Charest, Palos Park, IL
Corresponding Secretary- Christine Mills, Carnegie, PA
Treasurer- Linda Winters, Northampton, PA
Financial Secretary- Lauren Bentley, Coatesville, PA
Auditor- Mark Meschisen, Woonsocket, RI
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony appointed His Grace Bishop Daniel as Spiritual Father and Fr. John Harvey of Youngstown, OH as Spiritual Advisor.

Additionally, Martha Misko will serve as Immediate Past President and Convention Coordinator.

Junior UOL Executive Board – 2013-2014:
President- Kateryna Kocelko, Pittsburgh, PA
Vice President- Chris Holowko, Maplewood, NJ
Corresponding Secretary- Katherine Anderson, Youngstown, OH
Corresponding Secretary- Betsy Abrahamson, Woonsocket, RI
Financial Secretary- Sarah Hershey, Coatesville, PA
Treasurer- Kira Kuzmenchuk, Coatesville, PA
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony appointed Rev. Vasyl Sendeha as Spiritual Advisor to the Junior Board.

One wonderful moment during the UOL Convention was the presentation of the UOL charter to our newest chapter at St. Sophia Seminary. Our Seminarians participated actively in the Convention with Seminarian Ivan Chopko serving as Sergeant-at-Arms. During the Convention we collected over five hundred dollars in fines and donations that will be donated to Zoe for Life.

(Continued on page 6)
Following the successful UOL deliberations the Convention body enjoyed a festive evening at St. Vladimir’s Parish Hall. The hall was transformed into a night scene from Kyiv. A delicious dinner of borscht, varenyky and fish was enjoyed by all. The Kashtan Dance Ensemble wowed the crowd with a spectacular performance. Following the performance UOL members danced to the delightful and energetic music played by Harmonia. The night was a great success with UOL members dressed in Ukrainian blouses and shirts.

Saturday evening featured Martha Misko as the mistress of ceremonies and she guided the evening very gracefully. Awards were presented including Chapter of the Year to Philadelphia, PA, and Anna Woloschak received the Fr. Hallick-Holutiak award. (Descriptions of the Senior UOL Award winners can be found in this issue.) Alexis Oryhon, LSSK Chairperson, presented four scholarships. Junior UOL President Liz Hershey presented Junior UOL awards including the Fr. Bukata Award to Konstantin Shevchuk and the Junior UOL Chapter of the Year to Youngstown, OH. (Details about Junior UOL winners and Scholarship recipients will be in the October issue of the UOL Bulletin). Additionally, Pani Matka Linda Oryhon presented Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund awards to St. Sophia’s Seminary on behalf of the seminarians. As part of her presentation she interviewed each seminarian. This interview of the seminarians was a charming and wonderful way to get to know our newest seminarians.

Once the banquet was complete the band entertained and dancing continued through the night. Everyone enjoyed the music and dancing. Helen Greenleaf, the Chairperson for the evening, is to be commended for a delicious banquet and lovely evening. A highlight of the Kolomeyka was Vera Sufler stepping out on the dance floor and Peter Cepynsky joining her. While a picture of the dancing would have been great, cameras could not capture the dance, so the two dancers posed for a picture after the dancing was done.

One fun event at the Banquet and Ball was a photo-booth. UOL members had the opportunity to dance and have their photo taken. The evening was a huge success and lots of fun.
to take pictures in the booth and the three pictures came out as a bookmark. It was fun to pose with props and both young and old enjoyed the photo-booth.

Sunday was a beautiful sunny day and perfect for a procession. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony was greeted by UOL members, parishioners and clergy. They walked from the rectory to the Cathedral where the National Senior and Junior UOL Presidents as well as parish representatives greeted His Eminence Metropolitan Antony with flowers and the traditional bread and salt. Divine Liturgy was absolutely beautiful under the direction of Markian Komichak. It is always a joy to hear the angelic choir at St. Vladimir, Parma.

At the conclusion of the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy the officers of the National Executive Senior and Junior Boards took their oath of office.

Following Divine Liturgy, everyone was invited to participate in a wonderful lunch at the parish hall. A full lunch was enjoyed by everyone. With full stomachs and hearts filled with love our UOL family said goodbyes. The 66th Annual UOL Convention, now a memory, but what a wonderful memory. The Parma UOL Chapters and Parish are to be commended for a fantastic Convention. Special thanks to Convention Chairperson Melanie Nakonachny and Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Nakonachny for all of their hard work. Their labor of love, in planning this convention, truly serves as an inspiration.

The Senior Recognition Award is presented to a most deserving Senior UOL member for outstanding work in the UOL of his or her parish within no specific time period. The 2013 Senior Recognition Award was awarded to Anna Marie Woloschak from Youngstown. The President of the Youngstown Chapter accepted the award for Anna. This year’s recipient has been recognized by her fellow chapter members as a leader, an educator, and an inspiration to all within the parish. She is considered to be a source of progressive and creative ideas. She has been a Sunday School teacher, a Sunday School superintendent, a trustee of the Parish Board, an officer of the Sisterhood, a choir member, and an advisor of the Junior UOL Chapter for over 15 years. She is committed to encouraging and supporting the youth of the parish to fulfill their projects and makes sure they participate in our camping programs and UOL Conventions.

Her pastor is amazed that she is able to balance her family life, her occupation, and her “steadfast devotion to all aspects of parish life” even though she lives a great distance from the church.

A major focus of this year’s St. Chapter Achievement Award recipient has been to gain new members. The chapter scheduled a UOL Open house and invited everyone in the parish to a presentation about the UOL and a potluck lunch. The result was a gain of 10 new members!

Throughout the year the chapter assisted with all parish fund raising projects, as well as meeting on Wednesdays in the summer months to complete projects around the church and to have dinner together. The chapter has worked to encourage its youth and young adults to stay involved by sponsoring a Family Fun Night and sending care packages to college students.

Projects included planning a Theophany Supper, Holodna Katya, Malanka and a Theophany Breakfast. Additionally, for the first time during Great Lent the chapter sponsored a Lenten Talent Pledge – they encouraged all parishioners to make a pledge to use their talents to make something that can be sold or auctioned. They sponsored a lunch where the food items were all pledged by parishioners, and the children all pledged to make something that could be sold or performed as part of a Lenten event.

The chapter also focused on mission projects, including carolling to shut-ins. Chapter members gave cookies to all parishioners on Nativity and on Pascha with a note greeting them on the feast day and encouraging them to come to Liturgy more frequently. Chapter members participated in a Feast Day Project where there was an e-mail for each major feast day with the Epistle reading and Gospel reading for the Feast. Additionally, the Chapter prepared a handout that was distributed in the Parish Bulletin that outlined the readings for each day for Great Lent. The chapter sponsored collection of IOCC baby kits during Lent.

The Chapter’s Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Taras Naumenko sums up the commitment of the chapter by saying “these wonderful individuals take the time from the “busy-ness” of their own schedules to participate in ministry opportunities.” It is apparent that this chapter ministers on many levels.
It Takes a Deanery

At the 66th Annual UOL Convention, the UOL Education Committee suggested a project, “It Takes a Deanery,” to build networks between different members of our deanery parishes. The UOL is a unique organization within the UOC of USA that creates bridges between parishes. Given the history of the UOL in building community, the UOL can be used to build deaneries and networks within deaneries so that they can share best practices and lessons learned. The idea would include building connections within our deaneries between:

- Choir directors and choir members
- Parish board officers
- Parish financial officers
- Religious education departments
- Altar Servers

Organized as deanery events, specific activities will be organized by the UOL Education Commission to encourage sharing of information and building a community in Christ.

Some examples might include:
- Choir time to share music, share how things are done in various parishes within the deanery
- Parish Board – times to learn how other Parish Boards operate, meeting schedules, dues
- Financial Officers – times to learn about fundraisers, rules for nonprofits
- Altar Servers
- Religious Education – what materials are used, how are teachers recruited, do they have Vacation Church School (VCS) or a summer program, how does it run, how do children prepare for Holy Confession

Are you interested in volunteering to help the UOL and work closely with your Deanery to build a Community in Christ that extends beyond our individual parishes. The UOL can be instrumental in building this family in Christ that is vital within our Deaneries.

If you are interested please contact Natalie Bilinsky
nsufler@aol.com

12th Annual UOL Lenten Retreat
Saturday March 22, 2014
St. Francis Center For Renewal
395 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA

Learn more about our faith!
Get rejuvenated during Great Lent!
Meet fellow Orthodox Christians!
And so much more!

A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

Donor	Occasion/Tribute
Luda Kap	Thanks for printing the UOL Bulletin!
Rebecca Schultheis	In Memory of Marie Fedrouk, honorary UOL Member.
Teresa Linck	In Honor of Janeene Linck. A prayer for God’s blessings as she begins a new chapter in her life at Johnson and Wales University.
Roxanne Marks	In Memory of Marie Fedrouk, honorary UOL Member.

Have you been wanting to honor or thank someone special? The tribute fund is the ideal way to honor someone or commemorate a special event! It is very easy to submit a Tribute.

To submit your Tribute:
Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of $20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:
Natalie Bilinsky 703 Pine Ridge Road MEDIA, PA 19063.
Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

ATTENTION BULLETIN READERS:
We haven’t moved but our post office has -- when submitting items for the UOL Bulletin - please note change in address:
Natalie Bilinsky 703 Pine Ridge Road MEDIA, PA 19063

Mark your Calendar
Attend the
67th Annual UOL Convention
July 23-27, 2014

UOL Bulletin
c/o Natalie Bilinsky
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063