

Ukrainian Self-Reliance League of Canada
57th National Convention – Edmonton, Alberta
August 11 – 14, 2011

CONVENTIONAL REPORT

Convention Theme: Нас Поклик До Праці – Our Future Calls Us

Delegates and guests:

- CYMK – 43 and 14 adult supervisors – 57 (77 Delegates in 2009)
- UWAC – 72 delegates (58 delegates in 2009)
- TYC – 40 delegates (42 delegates in 2009)
- UWAC Museum – 7 delegates (15 delegates in 2009)
- Institutes – 3 delegates (4 delegates in 2009)
- CYC Foundation – 3 delegates (2 delegates in 2009)
- Guests – 2 (4 in 2009)
- Hierarchs – 2 (2 in 2009)
- **Total delegates and guests – 186 (202 in 2009)**

Elected Conference Executive:

Conference Chairperson: Jars Balan

Conference Vice-Chair: Leona Bridges

Conference Secretaries: Dobr. Jane Luchak and Carla Kozak

Scrutineers: Michael Zaleschuk, Bohdan Maslo and Natalie Toroshenko

Resolutions Committee: Oksanna Ensslen, Jars Lozowchuk and Daria Rutkay

Reports:

- President – Sonja Bejzyk
Sonja Bejzyk stated that her report was in the booklet but she wanted to mention that two things have not been completed during her tenure as President:
 1. The complete history of USRL/CYC has not been completed. Dr. Aponiuk will finish this work in the spring of 2012. All USRL/CYC archival material is stored in the Ukrainian Voice office.
 2. The Joint Standing Committee, a permanent committee of the USRL and the UOCC, did not meet in 2010 and 2011 because a committee chair could not be found. This is something that the new USRL/CYC Executive will need to rectify.(See the complete President's Report in the Convention Booklet)
- Treasurer- Morris Bugera
The Treasurer reported that on the balance sheet we have \$114,834.00 in the General Fund, \$9,405.00 in the Project 20,000 Fund and \$97,011 in the History Publication Fund. Total assets for the year ending May 31, 2011 are \$221,250.00. We have a sound financial base in our CYC organization. All of our investments are fully guaranteed because we have them in premium savings investments. There is no documentation on what or how the History Fund is to be used. (See the complete Treasurer's Report in the booklet)

Reports and Resolutions from Component Organizations:

- **USRA/TYC**

Emil Yereniuk stated that the TYC Biennial Meeting was productive. The newly-elected National TYC Executive will be in Edmonton and Emil Yereniuk will continue to serve as the National President. The Executive members are:

Tony HARRAS – Past President
Emil Yereniuk – President
Dennis Kuchta – Secretary
Gerald Kruhlak – Treasurer
Rt. Rev. Fr. Stephan Semotiuk – Chaplain
Michael Yereniuk – Member-at-large
Bohdan Maslo - Member-at-large
Marshall Opyr - Member-at-large

The following approved USRA/TYC Resolutions were presented to all USRL/CYC delegates:

No. 1 Topic: 75th Anniversary of USRSA/TYC

Be it resolved that all TYC Branches across Canada celebrate this important milestone within their community and research and complete a historical branch booklet.

No. 2 Topic: CYMK

Be it resolved that USRA/UOMA/TYC Branches across Canada provide both moral and resource support for their local CYMK Branches, Provincial CYMK Executives and for the National CYMK Executive.

No. 3 Topic: Member Organization Anniversaries

Be it resolved that USRA/UOMA/TYC Branches congratulate as well as morally and financially support the important milestones and anniversaries of CYMK, UWAC, the Museum and St. Petro Mohyla Institute in 2011.

No. 4 Topic: 120th Anniversary of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada

Be it resolved that USRA/UOMA/TYC Branches throughout Canada make plans to formally celebrate the 120th Anniversary of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada in conjunction with the plans that have been established by the UCC 120th Anniversary committee and use the logo for the occasion.

No. 5 Topic: St. John's Institute in Edmonton

Be it resolved that CYC/TYC will morally and with available resources continue to assist all Institutes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Community.

- **UWAC**

Zennia Yuzik stated that the National UWAC Executive will be in Edmonton and that the new National President is Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny. More information will be found in the USRL/CYC National Minutes.

- **CYMK/UYOY**

Katrina Baziuk will continue as the National CYMK President and the Executive will be in Edmonton. Katrina also had a major presentation (heart to heart talk) at the convention. She shared the following points with the delegates:

- CYMK membership and branches are declining. CYMK delegates to the conventions is also on the decline (2005 – 120 delegates, 2007 – 100 delegates, 2009 – 71 delegates, and in 2011 – 57 delegates).
- The CYMKivtsi are happy. Their goals are to focus on their faith, culture, and leadership and to have fun.
- Many children are in church but not in CYMK. We need to ask individuals to join the CYMK ranks. This takes time, energy and effort. This is a challenge for all of us.
- Katrina felt that if we don't do something that her executive could be the last National CYMK Executive. People do change. We do grow up but in the CYMK church family we never grow old. We cannot lose this. We need to think about what we can do to grow this family. The USRL/CYC family organizations are the resource, the people. To do this we will all have to challenge our energies, we will have to give in and be flexible, and we will need to do mission work and most of all we need to bring our children to CYMK.

Resolutions Committee – resolutions were presented by the USRL Convention Resolution Committee, CYMK, UWAC and USRA. The completed Resolutions text will be attached to the official Minutes of the 2011 USRL/CYC Biennial meeting.

Election of the National USRL/CYC Executive Council (NEC)

Past President: Sonja Bejzyk
 President: Dr. Tony Harras
 Secretary: Natalie Ostryzniuk
 Treasurer: Ed Klopoushak

Other members on the USRL/CYC National Executive Council (NEC) that were elected by their own members groups:

Vice- Presidents: Emil Yereniuk (USRSA/TYC)
 Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny (UWAC)
 Katrina Baziuk (CYMK)
 Steve Senyk – Chair of the St. Petro Mohyla Institute in Saskatoon
 Paul Strathdee – Chair of St. Vladimir Institute in Toronto
 Victor Pysyk – Chair of St. John's Institute in Edmonton
 Stephania Spytzkowsky – Chair of the SUS Foundation of Canada
 Bohdan Jereniuk – Chair of St. John's Fraternal in Edmonton

His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij spoke to the delegates on Sunday August 14, 2011 at the closing banquet. The organizing committee was pleased that both Metropolitan Yurij and Bishop Ilarion were in attendance as well as the UOCC Chancellor Rt. Rev. Fr. Victor Lakusta.

Metropolitan Yurij made the following comments during his presentation:

- We are now relaxed after being very serious this weekend.
- What I heard today is something that I was hearing in the 60's – Where are we going? Who are we? Shall we change?

- My parent came to Canada after WWII to an area where there were others that had common experiences. Organizations are in the same boat. We have to have things in common to be successful.
- Change is hard to accept especially when we get older.
- I was “Зворушений” (“Moved”) when I heard how delegates were upset that their children were not in CYMK. God also feels this pain. We need to remember that we need to face the choices that our children and grandchildren make, as does God. It is also very difficult to watch the children make their choices.
- Troubles on earth will end one day. We will be judged by how we have lived on earth. How do we reconcile this with matters that really matter? Did we feed the hungry and dress the naked? We are part of the global world. The borders now are insignificant. The same problems that existed 120 years ago are still with us today. The CYC organization is a member of UCC and the World Congress of Ukrainians and they are fighting the injustices in Ukraine and in Canada.
- We need to have fun as the CYMKivtsi stated but we cannot let this envelope us 95% of the time. A person cannot really have satisfactions unless his primary needs are met. Anything that is going to have meaning needs to have a higher purpose or meaning. CYMKivtsi need to think about other things and that having fun should be like the dessert.
- We need to realize that the church is a different institution than UWAC, USRA or CYMK.
- CYMK has an Orthodox component and this makes it a different organization than other youth groups. We have youth in our sister church in the U.S. They have adopted humanitarian projects and I would like to see our Canadian and American youth organizations get together and share ideas.
- We need to satisfy the needs of our people today. If we do not do this we will die or fall apart. We need to stop crying over what we had. Where are we now and how do we fit into the world as we are now?

Some final comments about the Convention:

- a. There was no decision on the date and location of the next USRL Convention. There was a hint that it may take place in Toronto/Hamilton or in Saskatoon. The newly-elected USRL/CYC NEC will need to investigate and make a decision.**
- b. The National USRL/CYC By-Laws were reviewed by the previous NEC and amendments to the 1987 USRL/CYC By-Laws were to be presented at this convention. We did not have the time to discuss the By-Laws amendments and Emil Yereniuk moved that we table the amendment changes to the next AGM or to the next Biennial Conference. This was approved by the delegates. The newly-elected NEC will need to review the amendments.**

Emil Yereniuk
 USRA/TYC National President
 August 27, 2011