

C-RS Connection

February 2020



WELCOME



Dear Friends,

I am reluctant to begin this issue with a complaint, but something must be done. I refer to the gross disinformation campaign launched by the Punxsutawney rodent known as “Phil”.

His deliberately misleading assurance of an early spring has resulted in havoc. Even my snowdrops were fooled into blooming. Then what happened? More snow!

I am formally asking the C-RS Board to consider revoking Phil's honorary Rusyn citizenship. Such gross malfeasance must not go unanswered. Even as I write this, it is snowing again!

Take care,

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President
president@c-rs.org

WELCOME NEWEST C-RS MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest C-RS members. The following list of names reflects new members who have joined since January 15, 2020. Please review the list - you just might find someone you know.

- David Alt - Rochester, NY
- Noah Balego - Minneapolis, MN
- Denise Eusebio - Columbiana, OH
- Mary Ann Evan - Washington, DC
- Linda Ferraro - Durham, CT
- Diane Grasso - Pittsburgh, PA
- Lynn Hale - White, GA
- Jon Hudzina - Johns Creek, GA
- Lynne Krenicky - Clifton, NJ
- Karen Krenitsky - Butler, PA
- John Majokos - Clermont, FL
- Pamela Moore - Santa Monica, CA
- Mary Ann Moore - Hackettstown, NJ
- Sherry Nelson - Lansdowne, PA
- Hillary Schwallie - Novelty, OH
- Teri Wood - Villa Park, IL
- Peter Zeleznock - Camillus, NY

Again, we welcome these new members and look forward to a lasting relationship. We hope they become involved by bringing their talents and skills to the C-RS.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH & GROWTH COMMITTEE



The Carpatho-Rusyn Society's (C-RS) Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan for 2019-2021 in January of 2019 which mandates the development of an aggressive membership growth plan and the creation of a Membership Outreach & Growth Committee. The goal of this committee is to enhance membership recruitment, engagement and retention.

As the C-RS membership chairman and trustee, I am looking for 3-4 members who would be willing to step up and volunteer to serve on the committee with me. I see it as a collective effort to address how to improve membership recruitment, engagement and retention by brainstorming ideas, collecting input from chapter/branch leaders as well as other key individuals, reaching out to our members and other community resources just to name a few committee functions. It's my intention that the committee would work closely together as a team.

Membership cannot be a one-person concern; it requires the concern and commitment at all levels of the organization. Over the years, the C-RS membership has remained static at best, usually losing more members than added. For the year 2019, 152 new members were added, and 55 members were reinstated from an inactive status. The total members added and reinstated was 207. However, for the same period, 219 members were made inactive and their records archived. Of the 219, 207 were archived for lapsed membership. As you can see, the members added/reinstated is offset by those made inactive, resulting in zero growth. In addition, if we factor in other reasons why members were archived the growth rate for the year was minus 12.

The point is, if the C-RS does not make membership a priority it will remain a stagnant organization or worse a dying organization. With it will go all the hard work over the past years of promoting the culture and heritage of the Rusyn people in America. Another question that is concerning - who is going to fill the future C-RS leadership roles? As our membership ages and many of our current leaders are showing signs of burnout - who is going to step up? Granted, this problem is not unique to the C-RS and many organizations face the same problem today. As they say, "nothing ventured, nothing gained". To what degree of success will the committee realize, who knows, but at least we can say we tried.

In closing, the objective here is to form a working committee as mandated by the C-RS Strategic Plan. I am reaching out to the general membership in hopes that the call will be answered. For questions or comments, please contact me at membership@c-rs.org or call 412-567-3077. Leave a message, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

In the Spirit of Rusyn Unity,

Tom Brenzovich
C-RS Membership Mgt System Administrator/Trustee

ONLINE CREDIT CARD SECURITY

A question I am asked many times is: "How secure is the Carpatho-Rusyn Society's online Wild Apricot Payment System when I use my credit card online to renew my membership, donate or register for an event?"

I came across the following information on the Wild Apricot FAQ webpage while researching an inquiry from a member regarding this very subject. I thought it would be beneficial to share with the general membership. See the following as it appears on WA's site:

"Are you PCI compliant?" - June 18, 2018 07:31

Yes, we are certified Level 1 PCI DSS compliant. This means that Wild Apricot adheres to the policies and procedures established by the major credit card companies to keep credit, debit and cash card transactions secure, and protect cardholders against misuse of their personal information.

To further clarify, "PCI DSS" stands for Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. To put it simply, the PCI DSS Level 1 is a set of requirements to ensure that companies that store, transmit or process credit card data do so to the highest standards. PCI DSS Level 1 is the highest level of compliance.

Tom Brenzovich
C-RS Membership Mgt System Administrator



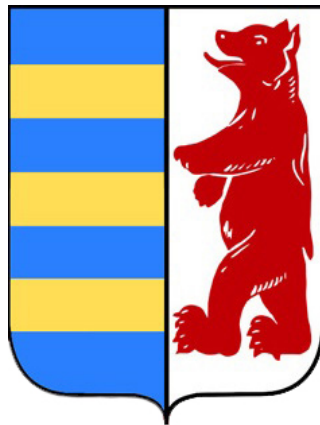
WHO ARE THE RUSYNS? DVD

The *Who are the Rusyns* DVD was released in 2019 for the 25th Anniversary of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

It is professionally presented by John Righetti explaining the complicated history of the Rusyn people. This “hard copy” should be in every Rusyn home simply because it will be referred to often and hopefully shared with others. One realizes how close the Rusyns were to becoming extinct and gives great hope for the future as we are now recognized as an ethnic minority by many countries.

The DVD can be purchased for \$25, which includes postage and handling. Please include the name and address of the recipient and mail your check made payable to Carpatho-Rusyn Society to Bonnie Burke, 1101 Tanner Crossing Lane, Indian Land, SC 29707.

Orders will be processed immediately upon receipt.



SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, February 20, Tampa, FL

The C-RS Florida branch presents PARTS 1 and 2 of "The Extraordinary Journey: The Eastern Europeans of Northeastern Pennsylvania" from 10:00 am - 12:15 pm at the Charles J. Fendig Library, 3909 W. Neptune St, Tampa FL.

Come together to experience the brave journey of our ancestors who came to America at the turn of the century. This DVD gives the most complete story of what they endured and how difficult it was to acclimate to a new country with little education, no money and a “strange” Eastern Christian religion. It provides a great opportunity for reflection and appreciation!

This event is free and guests are welcome! Light refreshments will be served during the DVD viewing and lunch will follow afterwards at a local restaurant.

For reservations, contact bb@c-rs.org by February 17th.



Saturday, February 22, Wildwood, FL

The C-RS Florida branch presents PART 2 of "The Extraordinary Journey: The Eastern Europeans of Northeastern Pennsylvania" from 10:30 am - 12:15 pm at the Villages Public Library at Pinellas Plaza, 7375 Powell Road, #102, Wildwood, FL. (PART 1 was viewed in November and can be watched upon request at 11:30.)

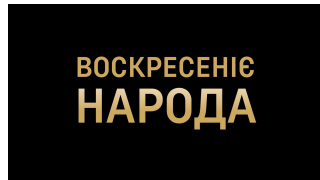
See event description above for details. For reservations, contact bb@c-rs.org.

Saturday, February 29, Plano, TX

The Dallas Chapter will present “The Carpatho-Rusyns of Eastern Europe” seminar with special guests John Righetti, Carpatho-Rusyn Society President Emeritus, and Maria Silvestri, President of the Timo Foundation. The event will feature the Dallas Premiere of the Timo Foundation’s documentary film *Resurrection of a Nation*.

4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX. 75093
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
\$5.00 admission - Open to the public

After January 20th, please see our Facebook page “Carpatho-Rusyns Dallas” for complete information and ticketing options. For more info, contact Lee Ann Slavik Erder at CRSDallas@verizon.net)



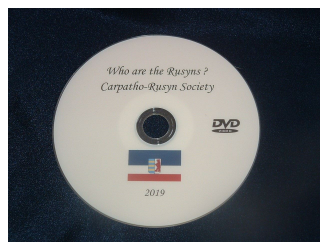
Sunday, March 8, 2020, Parma, OH

Join the C-RS Cleveland Chapter from 2-4 pm for a viewing of "Who are the Rusyns?" at the Parma Snow Library, 2121 Snow Road, Parma, OH.

Are you Rusyn, Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian or something else? Are you sure? How do you know? Was Greek Catholic the religion listed on birth or marriage records? Our history has been influenced by political and religious changes, which has caused many to think their heritage is cut and dry..but you may find this is not necessarily correct.

John Righetti has created a DVD to give viewers a history of these changes that made many Rusyns adopt a new identity, which was then passed on to descendants in the US and Europe. Once you watch this video, you will be amazed that anyone identifies as a Rusyn, but you will also find that maybe what you have been told by previous generations is not true. More importantly, you will learn why that happened.

Come and join us to see if your ethnicity is really Rusyn and you now have new questions to research. We have many resources to help you along the way and look forward to directing you to the answers you seek. All are welcome!



Sunday, March 29, West Seattle, WA

Save the date for the C-RS/Pacific Northwest Branch's Third Annual Pysanky Workshop!

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 1:00-4:00 pm. West Seattle.



Saturday, April 25, Oak Lawn, IL

The C-RS Lake Michigan Chapter Meeting will take place from 1-3:30 pm at the Oak Lawn Public Library, 95th Street and Raymond Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Maria Silvestri and John Righetti will present their new documentary The Resurrection of a Nation. This is a story of the revival of Carpatho-Rusyn ethnicity in every country, including the United States.. The film producers John and Maria will conduct a discussion of the film with audience members afterwards. Enjoy this documentary filmed in Slovakia, Canada and the United States made especially for the 30th anniversary of the Fall of Communism 1989-1990.

Open to all - Bring a friend.



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<http://www.c-rs.org>

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS) is a national 501(C)(3) organization founded in Pittsburgh, PA in 1994. As stated in our mission statement, the C-RS is dedicated to manifesting Carpatho-Rusyn culture in the United States and supporting Rusyn culture in the homeland in east central Europe. Information about joining C-RS and a membership application may be obtained on the C-RS membership website at <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org>.

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