



Welcome



Dear Friends,

This month we commemorate one hundred years since the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement and what it meant for the Rusyn people. The Agreement was created in 1918, when Americans of Czech and Slovak origin publicly announced their support for the creation of an independent Czechoslovak nation to be carved from the crumbling Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was the expression of the desire by American Slovaks for their people in Slovakia to have the same type of freedom and opportunity they enjoyed in the United States. This idea of autonomy within a state appealed to Rusyns.

Like most immigrants from eastern and southern Europe, Rusyns had come to the United States to improve their economic status. In comparison with other immigrant groups, Rusyns entered the political arena quite late. In the end, however, they were extremely successful in having their wishes fulfilled. When Rusyns began to think in political terms, they considered four possible "alternatives" for the homeland: unity with Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, or Russia. Both Russia and the newly-created Ukraine were considered unstable because of the Bolshevik revolution. Hungary was a defeated power. Although all the countries promised Rusyn autonomy, Rusyns in the homeland and in America both felt Czechoslovakia to be the right option. With that decision made, Subcarpathia thrived.

Unfortunately, on June 29, 1945, a Soviet-Czechoslovak agreement was signed under Stalin's direct pressure to hand over Subcarpathian Rus' / "Transcarpathian Ukraine" to the Soviet Union. Additionally, in August 1945, Eduard Beneš was forced to sign Decree No. 60/1945 for revocation of the Subcarpathian people's Czechoslovak citizenship. On January 1, 1946, all Rusyns of the Subcarpathian Rus' / Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, were proclaimed to be citizens of the USSR and ethnically Ukrainian. The Rusyns of Slovakia and Poland would be forced to become "Ukrainians". The ethnonym "Rusyn" would be denied for 40 long years.



With the collapse of communism in the Eastern Block, every country but Ukraine recognizes Rusyns as an ethnic minority. They appreciate the fact that Rusyns positively contribute to and culturally enrich their respective states.

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

2018 National Board Election Update contributed by Tom Brenzovich

The nominations/elections committee continues receiving nominations for the upcoming 2018 election of board members for the 2019-2021 term. Nominations are ongoing and acceptable until 8 September 2018. Though September is several months away, there is no reason to wait until the last minute. The sooner nominations are made, the sooner nominees can be vetted. This grants the committee a better perspective of which candidates will appear on the ballot and for what positions. Don't forget – self nominations are encouraged, in fact two candidates did just that!

Recently, the Wild Apricot development team released an updated version of their membership management software that included an online Polling feature. This feature provides the capability to conduct online elections, surveys, and polls. A test of the feature was conducted with very successful results.

For the C-RS elections, it is anticipated that members with an email address will receive an email containing voting instructions and a link to an online ballot. They will just click on the link and the ballot opens and they can cast their votes. When their selection of candidates is complete, they will simply click on the submit button and voting is completed. The polling feature will tally the votes, and all votes will remain confidential. Members who do not have email will still receive paper ballots as in the past.

In closing, please don't wait until the last minute to submit your nomination, the deadline will be here before you know it. All nominees will be vetted, and the goal is to have strong viable candidates on the ballot for members to vote for come the October-November time frame.

As a reminder: Nominations may be submitted to the nominations committee by;

- Email at membership@c-rs.org (preferred), or
- Postal mail to - Carpatho-Rusyn Society, Attn: Nominations Committee, 915 Dickson Street, Munhall PA 15120-1929
- For email nominations, please put BOD Election in the subject line.

Yours in Rusyn Unity
The Election Committee

The Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship contributed by Sharon Jarrow

The Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship will be offered once again to an outstanding Rusyn student attending Penn State College. Through the generosity of Dr. Paula Donson in memory of her grandmother, Anna Donson this scholarship is possible. The recipient of the first scholarship last year went to Madelyn Charnego whose qualifications were outstanding. The purpose of this \$1000 scholarship shall be to recognize and provide financial assistance to an outstanding student attending The Pennsylvania State University as a candidate for a degree in the College of Education or any of the Colleges of Science or Engineering. Students can attend any of the Branch Campus locations or designated sites that offer courses for credit at Pennsylvania State University or its World Campus.



Dr. Paula Donson

The aim of the scholarship is to assist students from the Carpatho-Rusyn community who are affiliated with the Carpatho-Rusyn Society or who have family members that are members of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. The scholarship wishes to encourage the excellent contributions that our people can make to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and beyond the borders of the State. The scholarship also intends to accelerate the advancement of our young Carpatho-Rusyn population, expanding the development of our Carpatho-Rusyn citizens through higher education, and bringing new levels of learning to our community and to our people.



Anna Donson with Paula Donson, her first grandchild

Members of the committee awaiting applications are Dr. Paula Donson, Margaret Garmon, Pamela Hemzik, Sarah Latanyshyn, Paul Lohin, and Sharon Jarrow. Each application will be carefully reviewed and a \$1000.00 awarded to the recipient.

For further information, please contact Sharon Jarrow at shangp@rcn.com or by calling 610-759-2628. The scholarship application and criteria are available online at the Carpatho-Rusyn Society membership website.

Rusin Garden Update contributed by Marcia Benko

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens is a unique chain of over 30 gardens located in Rockefeller Park in Cleveland, Ohio representing the numerous cultures that have enriched the city. The gardens are a stop on many tours and include local and international visitors.



The Rusin Garden was dedicated in 1939. Since the late 1990's the garden has been maintained by a small group of dedicated members of the Cleveland Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society. Although the garden site is owned by the City of Cleveland, maintenance work and expenses are borne by the sponsoring group.



Diana Essock, a C-RS member, has developed a plan for the improvement of our garden. To help her with this goal, she obtained the assistance of the Plant Science and Landscaping Technology Program from Cuyahoga County Community. Students in this program have won several national awards for their landscape designs. The college's landscape department has won numerous national competitions in landscape design. The students have submitted detailed plans showing their visions for our garden which will be incorporated into future changes.

Included in these plans was the removal of a large old pine tree. This was accomplished by students in the arborist class, under the supervision of their professor, Jim Funai. Their group effort enabled the students to gain work experience and for us to proceed with our plans, at no cost. We are fortunate to have developed a working relationship with Professor Funai and his students.

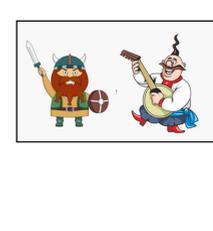
Future plans include pedestals with information about Rusyn identity, history and culture. A tribute to Andy Warhol is also in the works. Progress updates will be forthcoming.

Members and visitors are encouraged to visit the Rusin Garden located on 930 East Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio. Naturally volunteers are welcome to work in the garden. Please call (440) 331-3856 if interested.

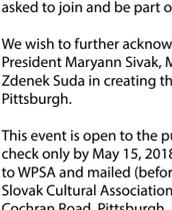
C-RS Chapter Event Highlights contributed by Bonnie Burke

Eastern Carolina Branch meets Rusyn Leader

The Eastern Carolina Branch had the great opportunity to meet Gabe Koljesar, a Canadian Rusyn leader from Vojvodina, Serbia. He was in town visiting his son and we were anxious to meet a fellow Rusyn from Vojvodina. We enjoyed the camaraderie while we met each other for lunch. We all purchased In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors, the newly released book of author Dr. Michele Parvensky which Gabe, as an editor of this book, personally autographed for each of us. We are looking forward to meeting with Gabe again in the near future.



Editor Position Available for New Rusyn Times



The term of the current New Rusyn Times editor will expire on December 31, 2018. Since, due to other obligations he cannot continue in the position, we are searching for a successor. Ideally those interested in becoming editor should have a good command of written English. They should also be familiar with Microsoft Word and Adobe Photoshop or another photo manipulation software and have access to a scanner.

For additional information, applicants can contact Maryann Sivak at pres@c-rs.org or Jon Coulter at editor@c-rs.org.

Save the Dates

Through Saturday, May 19, Munhall, PA

Don't miss the final days of the successful inaugural art exhibition at the C-RS National Cultural Center in Munhall featuring the work of four local artists who have diverse styles and use of artistic media. Though their direct subjects are differing, all draw upon the same inspiration — life and vitality in their painted forms. The artists include Michael Walter, whose paintings focus on geology and current events; Jana Houskova, an artist specializing in realistic portraits; Janet Carlisle, who uses transformative cutting and slashing to create her pieces; and Jon Coulter, an illustrator of more than 30 surgery books.



The hours for the Carpatho-Rusyn National Cultural Center are Sundays and Saturdays: 11:00-7:00 and Mondays through Fridays: 11:00-7:00 and admission is free.



Sunday, May 20, Stratford, CT

The C-RS New England Chapter presents a discussion on origins "Vikings and Cossacks in the Carpathian Southwest of Central Europe" at 12 noon at St John the Baptist Church, 133 Broadbridge Street, Stratford, CT 06615. St. John the Baptist is a block and a half west of the Stratford Railroad Station, north side of the tracks.



Learn more about the origins of our people at this interactive sharing of information. For more info, email merida@snet.net or call 860-345-7997.

Thursday, May 31, Pittsburgh, PA

The C-RS is proud to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement at 6pm at the Heinz Regional History Center.

On May 31, 1918, the Pittsburgh Agreement was signed in the Loyal Order of Moose headquarters building in Pittsburgh, PA. The agreement presented for the first time in a public declaration the intention of Slovaks and Czechs to establish one common state. This agreement was the expression of a desire by American Slovaks for their people in Slovakia to have the same type of freedom and opportunity they enjoyed in the United States. Based on this premise, the Rusyn people also asked to join and be part of the newly-created state.

We wish to further acknowledge the roles played by C-RS President Maryann Sivak, Milan Getting Jr, and Professor Zdenek Suda in creating the Pittsburgh Agreement Memorial in Pittsburgh.

This event is open to the public. Admission is \$35. Payment by check only by May 15, 2018. Checks should be made payable to WPSA and mailed (before May 15) to: Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 10 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Sunday, June 10, Munhall, PA

C-RS President Emeritus John Righetti untangles the web that is the complex Carpatho-Rusyn history and why these people have so many names and faiths and ... stories. And yet, they became one of the three founding peoples of Czechoslovakia exactly 100 years ago.

Where find out about Carpatho-Rusyns – where they've been, where they are ... and where they're going. The presentation will be at the Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center at 915 Dickson Street, Munhall, at 2:00 p.m. on June 10.

John Righetti has been active in Carpatho-Rusyn cultural affairs internationally for more than 4 decades. A founding member and first president of the national Carpatho-Rusyn Society, he also serves as the North American representative to the World Council of Rusyns, based in Presov, Slovakia. He has lectured extensively on Carpatho-Rusyn culture, history and immigration throughout the United States and Eastern Europe.

Saturday, October 13, Wilkes Barre, PA

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 6th Annual Genealogy and Heritage Conference presented by the Carpatho-Rusyn Society Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter at King's College, 133 North River St, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Watch for details. Questions? Contact Sharon Jarrow at shangp@rcn.com or 610-759-2628.

News contributions are welcome!
Please submit your content to am@c-rs.org.