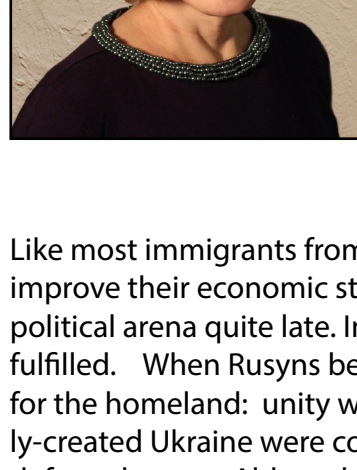




Welcome

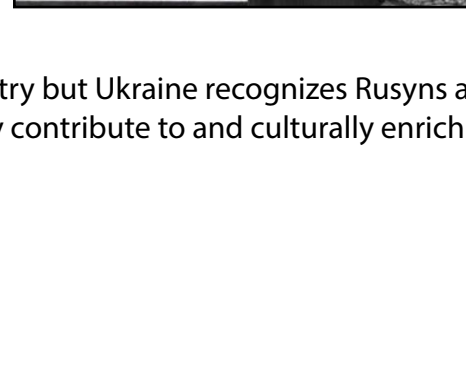


Dear Friends,

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;

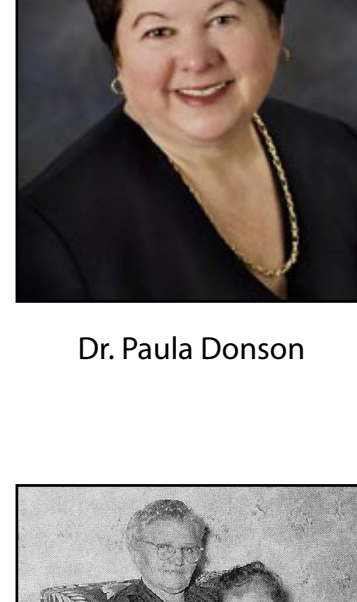
- Email at membership@c-rs.org (preferred), or
- Postal mail to - Carpatho-Rusyn Society, Attn: Nominations Committee, 915 Dickson Street, Munhall PA 15120-1929
- For email nominations, please put BOD Election in the subject line.

Yours in Rusyn Unity
The Election Committee

The Anna Donson Memorial Scholarship

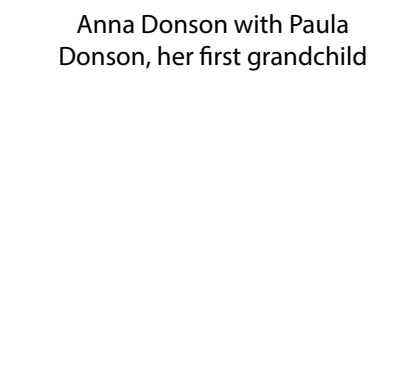
contributed by Sharon Jarrow

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 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.

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