



## Welcome



Dear Friends,

The concept of ethnic self-awareness has been revised in the last decades. We all agree on the desirability of individual ethnic groups living together without antagonism toward other peoples and without losing their cultural identity. Through this self-awareness comes a better understanding of the aggregate self as well as that of other ethnic groups.

We will talk about Rusyns within the context of past and present national and global experiences. The two components of this self-consciousness are the knowledge and a deeper sensitivity of one's own traditional background as well as that of people with a different cultural heritage.

Throughout 2018, the *New Rusyn Times* will be highlighting the 100th anniversary of the birth of Czechoslovakia and how it affected Rusyns. The event will be celebrated with a number of programs in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and the United States. The C-RS will contribute a series of published articles detailing the efforts of Rusyns and Rusyn-Americans to midwife the arrival of the new republic. A series of lectures will be presented throughout the United States on the important role Rusyns played in the creation of Czechoslovakia.

Take care,

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President  
[president@c-rs.org](mailto:president@c-rs.org)

## 2018 Carpatho-Rusyn Society's National Election Update

As the Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS) begins planning for its 25th anniversary, it is also in the process of preparing for the 2018 election of National board members. A major milestone was achieved when the first board took office 25 years ago. The newly elected board will also be achieving a major milestone by taking office as the C-RS celebrates 25 years of preserving and perpetuating the distinct culture, history, language, and heritage of the Carpatho-Rusyn people. The onset of our next 25 years makes this a very unique election indeed.

From its very beginning, the C-RS has had skilled, talented, strong, hard-working members who have stepped up over the years and taken on a leadership role. The questions to be answered are:

- Who will step up and have their name placed on the ballot come October-November when the elections are scheduled to occur?
- Who will be the nominees that will lead the C-RS into its next 25 years?
- Who will fill the shoes of those who have gone before us?

Anyone interested in being a candidate can nominate themselves. There is no requirement that nominees must be nominated by someone else. Keep in mind with the availability of various communication media sources today, nominees can now live anywhere in the United States or Canada and still be viable nominees and potential board members.

The Board of Directors (BOD) is entrusted with the management of the C-RS, and must act to promote its wellbeing. It is important that nominees be qualified and committed to serving for a 3-year term. Board positions include the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Information Assistant, Chief Information Officer and six (6) Trustees. A summary of positions, responsibilities and qualification requirements will be addressed in the "call for nominations". All nominees will be contacted by the Election Committee to confirm their willingness to run.

The March issue of the *New Rusyn Times* will contain the official "call for nominations" and provide the opportunity for **all members** to submit nominations of potential candidates and promote the upcoming elections. Other media sources will be used throughout the year promoting the call for nominations of candidates. These media sources include the C-RS Facebook page, the events page of C-RS membership site, the monthly C-RS Connection, the C-RS heritage radio program and email "blasts".

As the committee continues to move forward throughout the year promoting the upcoming election, we anticipate a good response from our members and look forward to receiving outstanding nominees to be placed on the ballot.

Yours in Rusyn Unity,  
Tom Brenzovich and the C-RS 2018 Election Committee

## Chapter Event Highlights - C-RS Southern Chapters



C-RS Florida Branch gathered in Ocala on January 13 for a presentation on "Winter in the Carpathian Mountains." The subject matter was surely quite a contrast to Florida's warm and sunny weather!



On January 28, Bonnie Burke presented "Rusyn 101" to the Carolina Lakes Sun City Retirement Community's International Cultural Exchange Interest Group in Indian Land, SC. Over 50 people attended and only one person had prior knowledge of Carpatho-Rusyns. After listening to the presentation, several attendees thought they were likely Rusyn and were inspired to do more research on their heritage.

## Save the Dates

### Sunday, Feb 25, Youngstown, OH

Join the C-RS Youngstown chapter to watch and discuss the documentary "Even Tears Were Not Enough" with producers John Righetti and Maria Silvestri. The presentation will take place at 1:30 pm at the Butler Institute of American Art, 524 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH, 44052.

In 1947, the new Polish communist government forcibly resettled its Carpatho-Rusyn population, locally known as Lemkos, from their ancestral homeland in southern Poland to depopulated western and northern Poland. This planned military operation was called the Vistula Operation or Ackja Wisla in Polish.



### Saturday, March 3, Plano, TX

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society: Dallas Chapter presents "Rusyns: A People Surviving With Changing Borders" with guest speaker Milan Reban, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, University of North Texas. The event will take place from 3-5 pm at the Environmental Education Center 4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX. 75093. Free admission/donations welcomed. For more information: [CRSDallas@verizon.net](mailto:CRSDallas@verizon.net) or Facebook: Carpatho-Rusyns Dallas.



### Sunday, March 4, Pittsburgh, PA

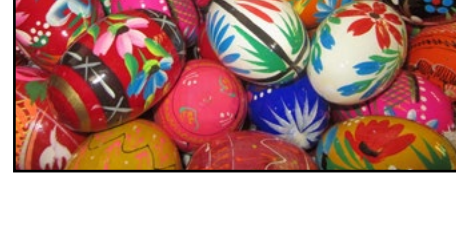
The C-RS will be participating in the Spring Festival of the Egg, a free, family-oriented around the world celebration of spring, from 12-5 at the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Hall Ball Room, 1st floor, 4227 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Come join us for free egg decorating workshops, spring cultural displays, easter egg display, and sale, homemade ethnic pasties, palm weaving demonstration, spring flowermaking easter paper cutting, children's egg decorating and much, much more. Bonnie Balas will demonstrate cross stitch for the Rusyn Easter basket cover.



### Sunday, March 18, Parma, OH

Join the C-RS Cleveland for a Meet and Greet with Bishop Milan Lach, SJ from 2-4 pm at the Parma Snow Library, 2121 Snow Road, Parma, OH. Have you met the new Bishop? Join us as Bishop Milan Lach, SJ tells us a little about himself, growing up in Slovakia and what he thinks of life in the US. You will have an opportunity to ask questions. Light refreshments will be served.



### Saturday, March 24, Wayne, NJ

Join the C-RS New Jersey Chapter hosts "Father Jozef Murgas: The Forgotten Man of Radio" presented by Dr. Thomas M. Check at 1:30 pm at Wayne Public Library, 461 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470.



In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the Wilkes-Barre, PA area in the Anthracite coal region of northeastern Pennsylvania served as a melting pot where many immigrants came in search of a job and a new life for themselves and their families. It was here that a young Roman Catholic priest from Slovakia came not only to lead a new congregation, but to eventually lead the way to the development of wireless communications.

Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. For further information about the program, please send an e-mail to [crsnewjersey@gmail.com](mailto:crsnewjersey@gmail.com) or call Dorothy Bogнар at (201) 891-4151.



### Saturday, March 24, Seattle, WA

The Pacific Northwest branch will host a pysanky workshop from 1-4 pm in Seattle. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details!



### Sunday, April 29, Parma, OH

Join C-RS Cleveland for "Tips and Tricks For Using FamilySearch.org for Your Eastern European Genealogy" from 2-4 pm at the Parma Snow Library, 2121 Snow Road, Parma, OH 44134.



Dorothy Titera from the Westlake Family History Center will help us discover how to get the most from FamilySearch.org as we work on our Rusyn genealogy. Based on what we learned from our last meeting where Ancestry, My Heritage, Findmypast and FamilySearch were compared, it seems FamilySearch has far more information available online from areas in Eastern Europe. It was also the biggest bargain coming in at "Free" and is available from your home computer 24/7. The site has changed somewhat over the past few months, so come and see if there might be info to help you with your search!

**News contributions are welcome!**  
Please submit your content to [am@c-rs.org](mailto:am@c-rs.org).

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Membership site: <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>  
Please submit news contributions to [am@c-rs.org](mailto:am@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/>