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UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 71 NO. 6 JUNE 2025

UOL Retreat 2025 Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

On April 5 over sixty participants from multiple parishes gathered in Jenkintown at the Basilian Retreat Center for the UOL Lenten Retreat. The Retreat entitled "Perfect in Beauty, God Shines Forth" focused on beauty and how we are all called to do something beautiful for God.

This year we had participants from our Allentown, Coatesville, Johnson City, Northampton, Philadelphia, South Bound Brook, Trenton, and Woonsocket parishes as well as from parishes in the Carpatho-Rusyn, Antiochian and Greek dioceses.

Our UOL retreat has become like a family where some members have attended every retreat for the last 20 years. When everyone arrived there were hugs and fist bumps, and everyone was very excited to get together. We were also encouraged that this year we had new members attend.

Fr. Anthony Perkins served as the Spiritual Father for the retreat. He led morning prayers. Following morning prayers, the entire group gathered for breakfast. This year we allowed for extra time so that everyone could catch up and enjoy each other's company. One of the joys of the retreat is the time to spend with friends. The retreat center, set on a serene location just outside of Philadelphia, is a wonderful location to do just that.

Natalie Bilynsky welcomed all of the retreat participants and encouraged them to enjoy the beautiful location as well as to interact with others at the retreat.

The UOL is incredibly grateful that Fr. Anthony Perkins has been the retreat speaker for many years. This year Fr. Roman Marchyshak spoke at the retreat for the first time and he was inspiring. Fr. Anthony spoke for the first session, focusing on the source of beauty, Our Lord, and also discussed how we enter into Beauty with our Lord.

(continued on page 6)

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UOL Bulletin - Published six times annually - September, October, December/January, March, April /May and June.

The absolute deadline for each monthly issue is the 1st of the prior month. Photos will not be returned.

Note to Contributors: All articles submitted to the UOL Bulletin must be in 11 point Times New Roman (font), or typed and double spaced in 12 point type. Articles may be submitted via e-mail attachments. (Submit to: nsufler@aol.com). If submitting photos please be sure to obtain consents for photos to be included in the UOL Bulletin.

The editor reserves the right to condense any material submitted. Material cannot be returned.

UOL Basket Raffle

Dear UOL Members and Friends,

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

With the UOL Convention right around the corner, we are inviting you to participate in our annual Basket Raffle. Due to the location of the Convention this year, many people will be traveling from afar. So rather than preparing a basket, we are inviting all chapters, Junior and Senior, to donate a gift card valued at $50.00 or more to be raffled off at the Convention.

Some suggested gift card ideas are:

- Amazon
- Home Goods
- Michaels
- Outback
- Barnes & Noble
- Olive Garden

We are asking for support from **all** of our UOL Chapters, Senior and Junior. Should your Chapter not be able to donate a gift card, please consider sending a $50 donation – check payable to "78th UOL Convention." Your participation in the Raffle and your donations will help to make this 78th Convention a financial success for the entire Ukrainian Orthodox League. Please send all gift cards and checks to my address listed below, no later than July 1st. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email, text, or phone. We sincerely appreciate your generous support!

Andrea Swan
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2101 Sierra Rd.
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(610)306-6854

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL

Matushka Laryssa Charest

Glory to Jesus Christ!

It's summer time, and that means that soon we will be greeting each other at our annual Convention. We came across a challenge when we heard about our Convention hotel closing but that didn't stop us. We pushed on and found another hotel. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge your patience while we figured things out. I would also like to offer my gratitude to the number of individuals that reached out offering help. You all are wonderful!

Now we are in the countdown to when we get to gather as one family in faith. As I think about our time together at the Convention, I am reminded of the importance of community. Yes we will do our part and travel to the Convention but it's more than just coming together. Participation is about sharing love. It is about understanding. It is about service to one another. Being a part of a community is important for everyone. (This is why I believe every parish in our Ukrainian Orthodox Church would greatly benefit from a UOL presence.) The Conventions allow us to form into another important community outside of our local parishes. Together we learn from each other. We find and give support. We gain strength and perspective because we put others' needs above our own. We become a reflection of the love of Christ through our interactions with other delegates.

The strength of community gives us hope. The strength of family and friends gives us hope. Our faith gives us hope. When we come together as one family, we are strengthening our anchors. Having an anchor will allow us to weather any storm. Be it illness, or failure, or loss, we need our anchor of hope to cling to. When we share our love with each other at Conventions, we are feeding our souls. We plant seeds of hope. These seeds blossom and allow us to see light in darkness, to experience warmth when it's really cold. Hope doesn't erase pain but it allows us to endure.

"We have this hope as an anchor, steadfast and sure." Hebrews 6:19. That is this year's Convention theme. When thinking about a theme, I considered why I believe in the UOL. I thought about what I get out of Conventions and my participation in my local UOL chapter. All of it, feeds my soul. It gives me this silent power: hope.

Hope is anchored in everyone of us. But it's a choice whether we hold on to it. In a few weeks, we will have the chance to get together in Tampa. The few days spent together at the Convention offer friendship to the person who is needing a sense of community or direction to the person who seems a little lost. It offers support to the person who is seeking reassurance and a means of unity. The time spent together strengthens all bonds through prayer and love. It connects us and reminds us of our anchor: hope.

I pray our time at this Convention will connect us in such a way that it inspires action. Action to be a family of faith. Action to bring healing to those who need it. Action to bring a positive force in our home parishes. I pray it brings a change in each and every one of us, to hope for something better. I am excited for Tampa and the path ahead for the UOL. With you, it looks pretty great!

In Christ's love,
Laryssa Charest

Be sure to submit your registration for the UOL Convention July 23-27, 2025

78th Annual UOL Convention

Tampa, Florida

In sunny Florida for the 78th Annual UOL Convention

July 23-27, 2025

JOIN US

HOTEL

Our new hotel is the Westshore Grand Tampa. Our room rate is $139 for a single or double. The hotel offers free wi-fi, complimentary shuttle to and from Tampa airport, Marriott Points, and a pool on the 9th floor. It's located within walking distance to a number of great restaurants, too!!!

SHUTTLE

Make your reservation at :

https://book.passkey.com/e/51046044

What's planned?

WEDNESDAY

We will call our Convention to order at 6:00 pm. We will go over simple procedures and then give everyone a chance to mingle during our Hospitality Night. Catch up with old friends and make new ones! We will have snacks and drinks for all delegates! We wouldn't want you to walk away hungry!

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78th Annual UOL Convention

July 23-27, 2025

THURSDAY

Thursday morning we will gather together for Divine Liturgy. Afterwards, we will have a lovely brunch before we start our first set of workshops. Then in the afternoon we will head over to the Florida Aquarium. From stingrays to electric eels.

You will have an hour to explore the exhibits after hours. Then, we will head to the port to board the Bay Spirit II for our Private Dolphin Cruise. We will cruise Tampa Bay in search of bottle-nosed friends. Dinner will be on the boat as well. This will be an amazing night. One rule: don't go overboard!

FRIDAY

Friday we will have a light breakfast available before we start our great lineup of workshops. Lunch is on your own, but don't eat too much because you'll have a feast at Whiskey Joe's for a true taste of Tampa. Enjoy dinner on the beach and games with friends. Beautiful views, great people, great food!

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MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT

Mia Zetick

Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!

As the school year comes to a close for us Juniors, we cannot help but to get excited for the encampments at All Saints Camp and our annual Convention in Tampa, Florida! I encourage every junior to attend either DCSC or Teenage Conference- you will not regret it! Spending my summers at All Saints Camp will always stay with me, and I am so sad that this is my last year as a camper. I also urge our juniors to go to Convention to become active in our organization and to have an amazing time! The Junior UOL is always looking for new members from any and all chapters, so please join us in Tampa! The Convention will take place from July 23 to July 27. If there are financial issues regarding either of these excursions, please talk to your local chapter or email me at juniorpres@gmail.com.

My time on this board is quickly coming to a close as I will be graduating high school and moving on to college. Reflecting on my years serving this organization, I would like to say how grateful I am for the opportunities this has awarded me. I have made connections with people that will stay with me as I continue my future, learned skills such as public speaking and leadership, and was able to give back to a community that has given so much to me. I am so excited to see what the Junior UOL continues to achieve in the upcoming years.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns at juniorpres@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ,
Mia Zetick

78th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention

July 23-27, 2025

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." Hebrews 6:19

Tampa, Florida

REGISTRATION FORM
(one per person)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Senior Delegate/Guest $300
- ☐ Junior Delegate/Guest $275
- ☐ Clergy Delegate/Guest $275
- ☐ Pre-Junior $100
- ☐ Weekend $185 Senior/$160 Junior
- ☐ Family Registration $1,050*

Late Fee: add $25 to packet price if registered after June 25, 2025

Chapter: _____

*The Family Registration packet: 2 Senior and 2 Junior Registration packets. For families greater than 4, each additional Junior child is $200. Children under 2 are free.

Registration includes: Wednesday Hospitality Night, Thursday Brunch, Thursday Evening, Friday Breakfast, Friday Evening, Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Banquet and Ball, and Sunday Brunch.

Weekend Registration includes: Friday Evening, Saturday Banquet and Ball, and Sunday brunch ticket.

Banquet Meal: Herbed Chicken ____ Quinoa Stuffed Pepper (DF, GF) ____ Kids Meal ____

Please list dietary needs: _____

Additional Purchase:

	# of Tickets		Total
Thursday Brunch	____x	$45	= ____
Thursday Evening	____x	$35 Junior /$65 Senior	= ____
Friday Evening	____x	$45 Junior/$60 Senior	= ____
Saturday Banquet	____x	$70 Junior/$100 Senior	= ____
Sunday Brunch	____x	$30	= ____
Total Tickets: ____		Check Total	= ____

(Registration continued on page 6)

All Saints Camp Update - Submitted by Josh Oryhon

MEET the #ASC2025 TEAM We've assembled this amazing team to provide a top-flight experience for all campers and staff members, say hello to the gang for the summer…
Facilities Don Hindman (Manager) Cooper Matassa Dixie Parisi (Housekeeping)
Lifeguard Dani Farkas Cooper Matassa
Food Service Julie Powell (Manager) Janeane Michael (Ass't Manager) Debbie Jackson Makenna Armagost McKenna Michael Rowan Glenn LeAnn Carr

By the time you read this, we'll be welcoming the first Ukrainian Orthodox Church program of the summer: **St. Nicholas Special Needs Program.**

June and July will be filled with fun as **Diocesan Church School Camp, Teenage Conference** and **Mommy+Me/Daddy+Me** take center stage. And, no summer is completed without…

FAMILY FEST: AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 1 .

Campers of all ages are invited to the annual Labor Day gathering on campus in Emlenton. This weekend is a perfect opportunity for families and individuals to reconnect with ASC friends and make new ones while relaxing in an idyllic environment. Best Part: Family Fest is free to the All Saints Camp community, but free-will donations are appreciated. https://allsaintscamp.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/person/App (Deadline: Friday 8/22).

ASC 50th ANNIVERSARY in 2028 We are gearing up to celebrate ASC's 50th Anniversary in style! Volunteers interested in participating on the planning committee should email josho@allsaintscamp.org. We want a full-court press to re-engage with alumni, so take a moment to reach out to your camp friends. We have it on good authority that they want to hear from you. There are multiple on-campus events planned and we are working on an interactive multimedia experience illustrating the history of ASC. We are in desperate need of photos, memorabilia and other artifacts from our first five decades, so please take a look through your collections at home and in your parishes. Submissions and questions can be sent to the email address above or via phone to (724) 867-5811.

LOVING WATER APPEAL After the unexpected failure of the existing water system on campus, a new state-of-the-art water treatment plant was constructed during spring 2022. The All Saints Camp leadership then launched the Loving Water Appeal to off-set the associated costs of this momentous project. The response from the Diocese and her affiliated groups has been incredible and we are truly grateful.

Simply visit allsaintscamp.org and click DONATE to make your contribution.

2025 ASC CALENDAR

June 11-15 Northwest Pennsylvania 4-H

June 16-18 Emlenton Boys & Girls Club

June 18-21 St. Nicholas Special Needs Program

June 22-28 Diocesan Church School Camp

June 29 - July 5 Teenage Conference I

July 6-12 Teenage Conference II

July 13-19 People of God

July 20-24 Mommy+Me/Daddy+Me

July 27 - August 2 Kobzarska Sich Bandura + Vocal Programs I

August 3-9 Kobzarska Sich Bandura + Vocal Programs II

August 10-16 Youth Alternatives of Oil City

August 29 - September 1 Family Fest

Please be aware that this schedule is subject to frequent changes as new events are added. The best way to stay updated is by visiting the ASC online calendar.

St. Vladimir Junior UOL
Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky

The St. Vladimir Junior UOL has been quite busy during Great Lent and preparing for Pascha. Our Junior UOL participated in pysanky making classes. This year our pysanky classes took a new twist. In our attempt to encourage younger children to begin to learn how to make pysanky, we used craft eggs and instead of beeswax – used wax from crayons. Last year when we encouraged younger children to use the dyes and raw eggs, sadly none of our masterpieces survived. The rule for our pysanky class is that you have to be 5 years old to begin. For every week of Great Lent we had our class with Juniors helping the younger children make a beautiful egg.

Our Junior UOL has their own table in the parish hall, and each week they encourage all youth in the parish to join them. They have been completing beautiful art projects and are wonderful mentors to the younger children in our parish.

On Lazarus Saturday it is tradition in our parish to use that time to clean the temple. Our Juniors participated in polishing the pews and also made palm crosses that are sold on Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday the Junior UOL also hosts a salad fest and this year we had an abundance of salads.

(continued on page 5)

UOL Member-at-Large Zoom Coffee Klatch February 22, 2025

Submitted by Shirley Duffy

Some of our usual attendees could not participate this time because they had other commitments, but a small group of us got together to discuss the topic of three things that help you live your best life. Our participants were: Kathy Perdziola (Pittsburgh, PA), Natalie Corwin (Johnson City, NY), Tracy Galla (Zephyrhills, FL), Andrew Fournier (Smiths Station, AL), and moderator Shirley Duffy (Pittsburgh, PA). Prominent in our discussion was family, with God being the most important member of the family. Participants cited the following aspects of family life: enjoying the grandchildren, the love and support of family, healing family rifts, and strengthening family relationships.

The coffee klatch occurred about two weeks before Great Lent began, and much of the discussion centered on spirituality: the importance of beginning and ending the day with prayer to help balance your life, reading the Bible readings every day to inspire your day with your letter from God, and the Orthodox Study Bible, which was viewed as especially helpful because of the explanations. Other resources included the podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio, and participants recommended reading Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy, a book by Father Andrew Stephen Damick.

Gratitude was expressed for the mentors in the Church for leading people back into church life. There was also discussion of the attraction to mission parishes of young men 18-50 years old, people of every ethnicity, Protestants, and Catholics to the church, which makes sense, the Orthodox Church. Remember, many of us were blessed to be born into it, and for that we should give thanks to God.

With the busy schedules of the members-at-large, it's difficult to schedule an event, especially on a Saturday morning when there are errands to run, shopping to do, athletics, etc., but if you can attend, it's a good way to catch up with Ukrainian Orthodox Christians from all over the country and see and hear what all the buzz is about this wonderful faith of ours.

(Philly Juniors - continued from page 4)

On Palm Sunday after enjoying the wonderful salads all of our little ones come outside for an Easter egg hunt. This year we had over 50 children and it looked like thousands of eggs. Our Juniors stuffed plastic eggs with candies and treats and also collected eggs from parishioners to prepare the day. All of the children left the Easter egg hunt with multiple eggs.

On Holy Friday, our Juniors come early to church to make baskets for our elderly and shut-ins. Our Juniors deliver the baskets and made lovely cards to adorn each of the baskets. Following the veneration of the shroud Fr. Taras blessed the baskets and our Juniors delivered the baskets.

Our Junior UOL has a wonderful group of Juniors who attend church regularly and are a great friend group to each other. They are also very caring and nurturing to our younger children.

(UOL Retreat - continued from page 1)

Fr. Roman spoke about the beauty of music, and also had a group of clergy and seminarians sing responses to illustrate the beauty of music. His talk "Music as an example of beauty" was wonderful. He was inspiring and prepared us for the services of Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha.

Fr. Anthony spoke for the final session focusing on growing in Beauty forever. We are so thankful for all of his support with the Retreat. He is truly a blessing! The retreat was a wonderful way to prepare us for Pascha and we are so thankful to him for his dedication to the UOL Retreat. May he be blessed for many years!

The retreat concluded with Great Vespers where retreat participants joined together in prayer. Thank you to everyone who participated and to our wonderful speakers!

(UOL Convention Registration - Continued from page 3)

Transportation: Please check if you need transportation _____

78th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention

July 23-27, 2025

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." Hebrews 6:19

Tampa, Florida

Additional Donation:

I wish to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to support this year's Convention:

- ☐ Sponsor a Seminarian (suggested donation $300)
- ☐ Saturday - Banquet and Ball (suggested donation $150)
- ☐ Sunday - Farewell Brunch (suggested donation $75)
- ☐ Pre-Junior activities (suggested donation $50)
- ☐ Speaker Sponsorship
- ☐ Registration Bags and other Convention add-ons

____ I would like to donate items for the Registration bags (ie. paper pads, pens, snacks, etc.)

Subtotal for Additional Donation $ _____

Total (Packet, additional tickets, and/or donation) $_____

Registration Deadline: Convention Registration form due by June 22, 2025. Any registrations received after that date will need to add the $25 late fee.

Hotel Reservations:

The Westshore Grand 4850 West Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609. To make reservations visit the website https://book.passkey.com/e/51046044 or call 813-286-4400. Use "Ukrainian Orthodox League" block name. Room rate of $139/Night-Single or Double is available until June 23rd, 2025.

Make checks payable to 78th UOL Convention!

Mail completed form to: Sue Leis
377 Fruitwood Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Questions? Please call Matushka Laryssa Charest at 847-902-7112 or email president@uolofusa.org.

For more information: www.uolofusa.org or Facebook.com/UOLofUSA

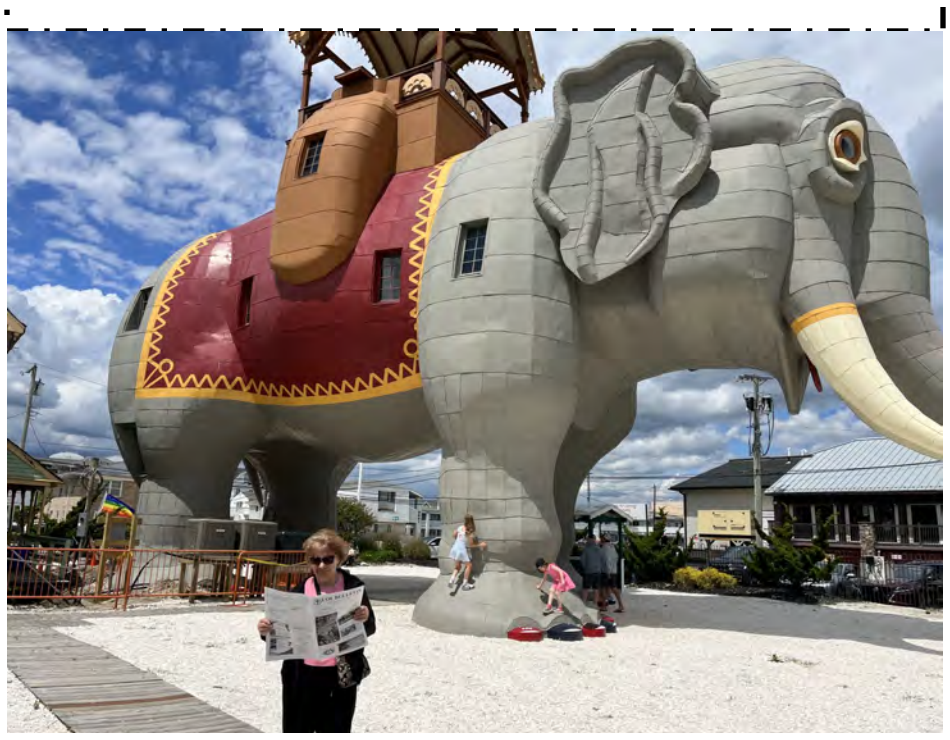
UOL Bulletin Pictures

Susan Perankovich enjoys the UOL Bulletin in Kalymnos, Greece.

Michael Nakonachny reads the UOL Bulletin with a friend in Vancouver.

Join in the fun! Take a picture reading your UOL Bulletin!
Submit pictures by sending to nsufler@aol.com

Oleh Bilynsky reads the UOL Bulletin in Buenos Airies, Argentina.



Vera Sufler enjoys the UOL Bulletin in front of Lucy the Elephant in Margate, New Jersey.

Mykola and Zachary enjoy the UOL Bulletin at the UOL Retreat.

UOL TRIBUTES

UOL Tribute

A donation to the Tribute Fund is an acknowledgment of a Milestone, Memorial, or Accomplishment, or is a Special Recognition of an individual or group. Your much-appreciated contribution is used to support and further the Mission of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. All donations are published in the UOL Bulletin.

Donor	In Honor of
Jean Guenin	In honor of the first anniversary of Fr. John Cumming's ordination. God grant him and Pani Tabitha many years!

To submit your Tribute:

Submit a card that includes your Name and Address, the Name of the Person to Receive the Tribute, the occasion of the Tribute (for example In Memory or To Honor), and the Name and Address of the person to whom an acknowledgement card should be sent.

For a contribution of $20 or more, the name and occasion is printed in the UOL Bulletin.

UOL Tributes should be submitted to:

Natalie Bilynsky
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063

Send your tribute today!

UOL Bulletin
c/o Natalie Bilynsky
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063

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Thank you to the following Annual Fund Drive donors:

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St. Demetrius Sr. UOL (Carteret, NJ)
Catherine Shaffer (in memory of my brother, John Lehotsky)
Edward Zetick
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78th Annual UOL Convention
Ukrainian Orthodox League of America
Email: uolofusa@gmail.com
Website: www.uolofusa.org

78th Annual UOL Convention July 23 – 27, 2025

Commemorative Yearbook Advertising Form

Inside Front Cover (color) $200 ◯	Outside Back Cover (color) $200 ◯	Inside Cover Back (color) $200 ◯
Full Page Ad $175 ◯	Full Page "Color" Ad $195 ◯	Half Page Ad $90 ◯
Quarter Page Ad $45 ◯	Eighth Page/Business Card Ad $50 ◯	Patron Listing $10 each ◯ (See separate page to complete)
	Ad not digital/publisher ready / need assistance please add $10 ◯	Video greeting (see info below) $20 ◯

- Full Page Ad purchasers receive a "free" copy of the 78th Annual UOL Convention Yearbook.
- Additional copies of the 78th Annual UOL Convention Yearbook will be $20
- Photos will not be returned. Reproduction quality cannot be guaranteed.
- Pages will be 8.5x11 and divided accordingly.
- Please email your ad to: uolyearbook@uolofusa.org
- We will also accept ads submitted via US Mail; **digital ad submissions preferred**
- If you require assistance with creating your ad, please email **uolyearbook@uolofusa.org**

Please make checks payable to "78th Annual UOL Convention"

Mail all money and/or forms by June 1, 2025, to:

UOL Convention YEARBOOK
c/o Chris Mills
641 N. Allerton Court Moon Township, PA 15108

Video Yearbook Info: Video Deadline May 1, 2025

By submitting your video yearbook greeting, you grant the 78th Annual UOL Convention Committee and the Ukrainian Orthodox League rights to use the content and your image for publication.

Best Practices, Instructions for filming & Submitting:

- Please be sure to record your video in an appropriate location with little to no background noise.
- Please be sure that your background is pleasing to the eye and appropriate.
  - *If it's a nice day, consider filming outside!*
- Videos should not reveal any personal information you would not want others to know.
- The video can be recorded on your computer or smartphone.
  - *If filming on a phone, please film **horizontally** (not up & down!) to avoid having black space on the sides.*
- Please submit all video as .mp4 format.
- **Upon receipt of submission form and payment, you will receive a link to upload your video.**

Name: _____ Email: _____