On Wednesday, July 25, 2012, Junior and Senior members of the UOL traveled to Allentown, PA for the annual convention. That evening after prayers, members, guests, and clergy reunited at hospitality night. It was great to see everyone back again!

The next morning, Thursday July 26, the convention body gathered in the chapel to celebrate Divine Liturgy. After brunch, the Juniors and Seniors commenced their first business session. After a welcome from the Allentown Convention Committee Chairpeople and Senior National Executive Board President Martha Misko, the Juniors moved to their own room to begin their own session with some ice breakers. We began working in our committees to come up with new ideas for the upcoming year. We played the first round of chapter challenge and then met in joint committee sessions with the Seniors. That night everyone convened at The Meadows for “Christmas In July.” There was a competition for the funniest, cutest, most colorful, and most Christmas spirited Christmas Sweaters. After a night of fun, everyone returned to the hotel for evening prayers.

(continued on page 5)
world and the power He has given to His ministers over the actions of Satan.

the evil one and his minions in particular. A simple hand blessing not only

Death and will in the end be revealed as the ultimate victor over all evil and

fourth finger crossing one another, while the fifth finger crooked forms the

the third finger crooked forms the C. The X is made up of the thumb and the

the cross being made is fortified visually with the Name of Jesus Christ, the

alphabet letter combination signifying Jesus Christ. So in the action of blessing,

the fingers form a monogram. The monogram is IC XC, which is the Greek

that it adds yet another potent element. You mentioned fingers being crinkled

that important. The sign of the cross is the sign of victory and at it even the

How blessing styles developed in the Western and the Eastern churches is not

I may not be the most observant person, but I finally noticed something that

to the above mentioned problem and it can begin where love, forgiveness and

power of the Holy Spirit, which is found when the majority try to love one

Miracles and even a positive parish life, which attracts outsiders, will abandon

I  suppose that in every large family or church there are misunderstandings

that can lead to great rifts between people. Both family life and church life

can be bitterly affected, with continued ill-will and harsh words, and those

around, “non-combatants” so to speak, are asked to choose sides. What can be

in a Christian manner to heal these wounds which can fester from generation
to generation?

Yes, many churches do have competing factions or situations where one person

will not talk or interact with their opposite without nasty words or a scene

being implemented. What is lacking is the virtue of forgiveness. The rite of

forgiveness on Forgiveness Sunday is the shock treatment to begin a process

of healing. It has been my experience, though, that at least one of the two

parties will disappear before such a reconciliation will take place. To verbally

attempt to forgive, even though in one’s heart one finds the history of offences

unforgivable, is the first step towards an eventual healing. Melting one’s heart

and the cleansing of the memory of past disturbances is often a long and slow

process. Another step is to keep the parties apart so that frictions do not ignite

a calm cease-fire with new reasons for disagreement and hatred.

In the trebnik, or priest’s book of sacraments and blessings, there is a prayer of

reconciliation which may be done by the pastor after a service or privately

with either faction present. Be assured that it is the evil one who rejoices

when there are factions and tension within a parish.

Mystical and even a positive parish life, which attracts outsiders, will abandon

a church which is wrapped up in petty squabbling. What is needed is the

power of the Holy Spirit, which is found when the majority try to love one

another and live in tolerance of one another’s foibles. Yes, there is an antidote

to the above mentioned problem and it can begin where love, forgiveness and

an attempt to forget past wrongs and insults prevails.

I may not be the most observant person, but I finally noticed something that

has raised my curiosity. I remember Roman Catholic priests and Lutheran

pastors blessing the congregation in the sign of the cross with an open palm.

Upon closer inspection, I realize that Orthodox priests bless with their fingers

crinkled up in a certain way and have further noticed that Christ in the icon is

giving a blessing in the selfsame manner. Obviously there must be a certain

meaning expressed by this action, so what is this all about?

How blessing styles developed in the Western and the Eastern churches is not

that important. The sign of the cross is the sign of victory and at it even the
demons must tremble, so the manner in which it is done is basically just a

variation on a theme. What is so neat about the Orthodox form of blessing is that

it adds yet another potent element. You mentioned fingers being crinkled

up and that is one way of describing it, but what is so interesting is that visually

the fingers form a monogram. The monogram is IC XC, which is the Greek

alphabet letter combination signifying Jesus Christ. So in the action of blessing,

the cross being made is fortified visually with the Name of Jesus Christ, the

Name of power by which all in heaven, earth and below the earth must bow

the knee. Looking at the hand, the second finger extended forms the I, with

the third finger crooked forms the C. The X is made up of the thumb and the

fourth finger crossing one another, while the fifth finger crooked forms the

final C. In the icon, Jesus blesses with His own Name. He Himself is the

victorious One, Who by His glorious Resurrection destroyed the power of

Death and will in the end be revealed as the ultimate victor over all evil and

the evil one and his minions in particular. A simple hand blessing not only

conveys the blessing given, but then also expresses God’s supremacy in this

world and the power He has given to His ministers over the actions of Satan.
Liturgy, Sessions, Aquarium...OH MY!

Thursday at the 66th Annual UOL Convention
Submitted by Melanie Nakonachny, Convention Chairwoman

Thursday, July 25, 2013 will be an exciting day for participants of the 66th UOL Convention. Guests will visit 3 different venues on that day as they participate in Divine Liturgy, Business Sessions and travel to the Cleveland Aquarium.

The morning will begin with Divine Liturgy held at Saint Vladimir’s Cathedral in Parma. The parish, founded in 1924, has been located in Parma for the last 58 years. The cathedral, just a short 10 minute ride from the Embassy Suites hotel, is easily accessible to our guests.

Following Divine Liturgy participants will travel back to the Embass suites for a brunch buffet before resuming business sessions.

That evening, following business sessions, convention guests will travel into Cleveland. The Cleveland Aquarium, just opened in January of 2012, will be open that evening only to the guests of the 66th UOL Convention. That evening, following business sessions, convention guests will travel into Cleveland. The Cleveland Aquarium, just opened in January of 2012, will be open that evening only to the guests of the 66th UOL Convention. The aquarium is located inside an old Powerhouse building, a historic structure with a lot of character. Time will be given to explore the facility and all of the new exhibits which include aquatics that live all over the world! Most exciting is the shark exhibit and the touch tank where guests can touch various corals from across the world.

Following their exploration through the aquarium guests will travel up to the third floor of the Powerhouse building to Windows on the River. This is where dinner will be served as guests look out at views of the city and the Cuyahoga River. Following dinner guests will enjoy dancing and will have more time to return to the aquarium if they would like.

Thursday, July 25, 2013 will be a busy, fun and productive day at the 66th Annual UOL Convention. You wouldn’t want to miss out on all this excitement! Plan now to visit Parma, OH July 24-28, 2013.

*If you would like more information about the Cleveland Aquarium (greaterclevelandaquarium.com) or Windows on the River (windowsontheriver.com) check out their websites!*

Start making your plans for

The 66th Annual U.O.L. Convention
St. Vladimir’s Cathedral
Parma, Ohio

July 24-28, 2013

Glory to Jesus Christ!

It’s already October and the Jr UOL is off to a wonderful start. We held our first meeting on September 22nd in Coatesville, PA. We would like to thank the chapters of Coatesville for their warmth and hospitality. Further information about this meeting will be in the next UOL Bulletin.

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Meet the 2012-2013 Junior National Executive Board

Elizabeth Hershey - President
My name is Elizabeth Hershey and I am President of the 2012-2013 Junior National Executive Board. I am very excited to begin my second year serving on the Board! I attend Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Coatesville, PA. I am the president of our local chapter and attend church school.

This year I will be a senior at Oxford Area High School. I am a member of our cross country and softball teams as well as several other student led organizations, such as Future Business Leaders of America. It keeps me very busy. I love art and reading which takes up a lot of my free time. Most of my summer has been spent hanging out with friends and looking at several colleges. I hope to attend Georgetown next fall, but we will see how that goes.

I hope to serve the Junior UOL and our Church with as much honor and dedication as my predecessors. Please pray for all of us as we set out to accomplish the good works that are expected of us. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns throughout the year. We are here to help! If you need to contact me, my e-mail is lizhershey94@gmail.com. I will try to get back to you as soon as possible! I pray that the Lord will guide all of us this year and that we succeed in all our endeavors.

Christina Perdziola - Treasurer
Hello, my name is Christina Perdziola and this is my first year as the treasurer on the Junior UOL National Board. I am president of my Junior UOL Chapter at St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church on the South Side of Pittsburgh. We have a small membership, but we do as much as we can. I enjoy singing in my church choir. In the summer I look forward to going to Teenage Conference. I live thirty minutes from my parish in a Pittsburgh suburb called Bethel Park and will be attending Bethel Park High School this fall as a freshman. Since the age of three I have participated in Ukrainian folk dancing with the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and School. I also play bass clarinet in my high school concert band. My two older brothers, Roman and Stevie, attend the University of Pittsburgh. I look forward to serving the members of the Junior UOL as your treasurer.

Sarah Hershey - Financial Secretary
My name is Sarah Hershey and I am very excited to be starting my first year on the National Executive Board as Financial Secretary. I attend Holy Ghost Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Coatesville, PA. As Vice President of my local chapter, I am very active in the church. I also serve as the liaison between our Junior UOL chapter and our Church board.

This year I will be a sophomore at Oxford Area High School. I am on the varsity Cross Country and Track teams for my school. Running is something that I am very passionate about and I hope to continue. Some of my other hobbies are reading and hanging out with my friends. With my free time I volunteer at my Local Library.

This year I am the chairperson of the Culture and Education Committee. I am looking forward to putting to work as many of the ideas as possible that were generated at convention. I also plan to attend Teenage Conference for the first time this coming summer. I am looking forward to meeting new people and learning more about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Janeene Linck - Recording Secretary
Glory to Jesus Christ! Hi everyone! I’m Janeene Linck and I am the new Recording Secretary for the Junior UOL National Executive Board. I am 17 years old and reside in Milltown, New Jersey. I am also a senior at Bishop George Ahr High School in Edison, New Jersey. I have been a member of the St. Demetrius Cathedral in Carteret my whole life. I have attended Church School since I was in Pre-K and still partake in lessons. I joined the Jr. UOL of my chapter when I was 12 and became Secretary when I was 13. I did so for 3 years and now I am the President of our chapter.

Outside of church, I participate in many things. At school, I am part of the National Honor Society and Italian Honor Society. I am also a Student Ambassador. I participate in the Christian Social Action Club, Relay For Life Club, and the Italian Club. I have a Varsity Letter in swimming and I am also the team manager for my high school. I have a passion for dance and have been taking numerous classes since I was nine years old. I have been to many auditions and I have worked with professional choreographers. It has been a privilege to work with all of them.

My passion for life is the force behind all that I do and I promise to bring this passion to my new position of Recording Secretary. I am very honored to have been elected onto the National Board and I am very excited about the year to come.

Kateryna Kocelko - Corresponding Secretary
Hi! My name is Kateryna Kocelko and I am excited to be the new Corresponding Secretary for the national board. I live in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania with my mom, dad and sister, Alya. I attend St. Vladimir’s parish in Pittsburgh. At St. Vladimir’s I sing in the church choir, attend Sunday school, read the epistle and am treasurer of our junior UOL. I also have danced with the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble since I was three.

This upcoming school year I will be a freshman at Keystone Oaks High School. I have played the flute in concert band since fourth grade and the marching band this year. I am in Girl Scouts and have been since first grade. I have competed in Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science for the last two years. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends, playing games with my family and attending Pittsburgh Steelers games. Since I was eight I have been attending Diocesan Church School Camp and Teenage Conference at All Saints Camp. Camp is a huge part of my life and I love it so much.

I am looking forward to a fun and successful year. If you have any questions or would like to get to know me you can contact me at kdkcutie25@yahoo.com.

Nicholas Perkins - Vice President
My name is Nicholas Perkins and I live in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, where I serve as the current Recording Secretary of my local chapter. I am enrolled at a local Catholic school, and am involved in extracurricular activities such as Theater, Choir, and Fencing. I work as a Lifeguard and Swim Instructor at my local YMCA, and am also a member of my school’s Swim Team, focusing mainly on the Breast, Butterfly, and IM events. I frequently write in my spare time, as well as watch television shows such as “Doctor Who,” “Firefly,” and “Death Note.” I enjoy all of my new classes in school, but I especially look forward to my AP Psychology class. My favorite video game series is unquestionably The Legend of Zelda, but Star Fox is a firm second.
Friday sessions got started with a continuation of committee meetings. The Juniors listened attentively to the wisdom of our Hierarchs. More competitive rounds of chapter challenge were played and The Board came out on top. The nominations committee announced their slating of candidates for office and voting took place. After another day of hard work, the convention body again went to The Meadows, this time for a clam bake.

Saturday morning the Juniors approved and presented their committee reports and then the business sessions were adjourned. The newly elected board had an opportunity to meet and discuss goals for the year. The rest of the day was filled with fun and relaxation followed by Vespers.

Finally everyone began to get ready for the banquet and ball. As always, it was an extravagant event. After speakers and awards concluded, everyone enjoyed live music and fun dancing. Everyone had a hard time leaving the dance floor at the end of the night.

On Sunday morning, Hierarchal Divine Liturgy was held at St. Mary’s in Allentown. The newly elected boards took their oath of office immediately following liturgy. A delicious brunch was held afterwards and the convention came to a close.

On behalf of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League I would like to thank the Hierarchs, Fr. Myron Oryhon, the Convention Chairpersons, and the UOL chapters of St. Mary’s for the effort they put into this year’s convention. It was a huge success!

Danielle Walewski - Very Rev. Bukata Award

A WINNING TEAM

Submitted by Alice Sivulich

This year a mother-daughter team from Sts. Peter and Paul Senior and Junior Chapters in Carnegie, PA was honored with two national UOL awards. At the UOL Convention Sherri Walewski was announced as the recipient of the Metro J. Baran Award for her work with the youth of the church, and her daughter, Danielle Walewski, was announced as the recipient of the Very Rev. Volodymyr Bukata Award for service as an outstanding member of the Jr. UOL.

Sherri has served many years as the Co-Administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul Church School and was the past Senior Advisor to the Junior Chapter. She has helped plan the church school curriculum and the activities which supplement it, and has worked directly with the youth as they assist with St. Martin’s Closet, our parish community outreach program providing gently used clothing for those in need. Her numerous other activities over the past years have included driving and caroling with the youth at Christmas, and directing the youth as they do an annual Spring clean-up around the parish grounds and buildings. Sherri and her husband Jeff are the owners of five restaurants in the greater Pittsburgh area and two of their three children have served as National Officers on the Junior National Executive Board.

Danielle has been involved with the Jr. Chapter in various capacities since she was old enough to join, following the example of her two older siblings. She currently is a Senior at Chartiers Valley High School and the Junior Chapter President. In addition to helping with all Jr. Chapter activities, she has been dedicated to helping at St. Martin’s Closet, displaying, folding and storing the gently used clothing available to those in need in our local community. Danielle has also been involved with CISV, an international travel/study program for youth, for five years. Through this program she has traveled to Japan, Portugal, Sweden and Norway during the past several summers. Danielle’s academic load at school includes three AP (advanced placement) courses and she works with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).

Sherri and Danielle (pictured above) could not attend the UOL Convention, so they received their awards the following Sunday in Carnegie at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, where all of the parishioners honored our winning mother-daughter team!

Congratulations Sherri and Danielle!
At the 65th Annual Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention hosted by the Junior and Senior UOL Chapters of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Mary in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the UOL awarded scholarships totaling $5,200 to four Junior UOL members whose dedication to their Church and her League have distinguished them from their peers. In the thirty-seven years since the LSSK Scholarship Fund was established in 1975 in memory of Lynn Sawchuk and Sharon Kuzbyt, the UOL has awarded 140 scholarships totaling over $163,600.

Criteria considered by the Scholarship Committee include: being a current or past member of the Junior UOL; enrolled in or about to enroll in a program of advanced education; a record of outstanding performance in service to the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox League; academic performance in high school; involvement in extracurricular activities and being of high ethical and moral character.

The 2012 LSSK Scholarship recipients are:

Joshua Bourgery is a member of St. Michael Parish in Woonsocket, RI. He served on the National Executive Board for one year and held positions in his local chapter for seven years. Joshua was tonsured a sub-deacon and was very dedicated in the life of his parish.

He participated in the church choir & dance group, visited shut-ins and worked at the local food pantry.

His parish priest stated: “Joshua loves his heritage, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and has given his life to Christ.”

In school, Josh was a member of the National Honor Society and received a National AP Scholar Award. He was also a member of his school’s award-winning music program.

Joshua will attend the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

Nicholas Holowko is a member of Holy Ascension Parish in Maplewood, NJ. He served as treasurer and secretary of his local chapter and served as National Treasurer for the past two years. Nicholas was also the Jr. Chairperson for the 2010 Maplewood Convention. He was extremely active within his parish community and chapter, attending various fund-raising activities along with visiting shut-ins. Nicholas also attended various UOC camping programs.

In school, Nicholas was consistently on the Honor Roll and a member of the National Honor Society. He was appointed as his hockey team’s captain and was also a member of the lacrosse team. Nicholas participated in the Investment Club. One of his teachers mentioned, “Nick is a caring and kind young man who is very studious.”

Nicholas will attend Bentley University in the fall.

Gregory Markiw is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Carnegie, PA. He was an active member of his local chapter serving as Treasurer and President. Most recently, Greg was the 2011-2012 National President and served as Financial Secretary the prior year.

Greg was a member of the High School Mission Trip team. He has been an active member of the camping programs and participated in the Kyiv Dance Ensemble.

His parish priest stated, “Gregory is a hard-working sincere kid, who is enthusiastic, inquisitive and dedicated”. This past school year, Greg was enrolled in three AP level courses. He was very active in musical groups, most especially Band and Jazz Band. He was a member of the Internet Club and German Club and challenged himself to participate in numerous extracurricular activities both in school and the surrounding communities.

Gregory will attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall.

Katie Zimmerman is a member of St. Mary Parish in Allentown, PA. This past year, Katie served as the Jr. Convention Chairperson. She was on the National Executive Board for two years and served as Treasurer and President in her local chapter. Katie was a church reader and an active participant in the life of the parish.

This past summer, Katie was a member of the High School Mission Trip team and participated in many UOC camping programs. She was involved in the Special Olympics and volunteered at a retirement facility. Katie participated in the Emerging Health Professionals Program, where she combined classroom learning and real world applications.

Her guidance counselor stated: “I believe that her curiosity and interest will sustain her throughout the Emerging Health Program and in her pursuit of a career in health care.”

Katie will attend Wilkes University in the fall.

The LSSK Scholarship Committee would like to congratulate this year’s recipients on their accomplishments and thank the UOL members, friends and chapters for their support of this worthwhile scholarship.

Please remember, donations to support the LSSK Scholarship are accepted at any time and may be forwarded to:

Alexis M. Oryhon
406 Odell Avenue
Endicott, NY 13760
amoryhon@gmail.com

Scholarship applications for 2013 will be mailed to the Junior UOL Chapters in March 2013 or may be downloaded from the Scholarships and Recognition page of the UOL website now found at www.uol.orthodoxws.com/

LSSK DONATIONS
(RECEIVED AT 65TH ANNUAL UOL CONVENTION)

EUGENIA ARISON (IN MEMORY OF ANN BELLESSI, OLGA KARPICK AND ANN STANCHAK)

MR. & MRS WILLIAM KUZBYT (IN MEMORY OF ANN BELLESSI)

GREGORY MISKO

V. REV. FR. JAKIW AND PANIMATKA MARYKA NORTON

OLGA SAWCHUK & JAMES SAWCHUK

STEVE & MELANIE UNGER (IN MEMORY OF ANNA & MICHAEL SMALLEN)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!
Junior Chapter Achievement Award
Sts. Peter and Paul Junior UOL Chapter – Carnegie, PA

Sts. Peter and Paul of Carnegie, PA was awarded the Junior Chapter Achievement Award. The winner this year truly set an example of what it means to be a chapter of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League. The chapter has 9 members and this was an increase in membership from the last year.

Of their nine members, 5 sing in the parish choir, 6 attend Church School, 6 participated in the Cultural Contest, 3 participate in the local Ukrainian Folk Dancing Group, 3 participated in Teenage Conference and 6 participated in Regional UOL events.

The chapter was busy with many fundraising activities including monthly food events such as breakfasts, spaghetti dinners and brunches. They also participated in an internet fundraiser (FOCUS) via the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve.

The Junior Chapter members also participate in many parish activities and social activities.

The chapter made many donations in the last year including $150 to the Thanksgiving Tithing Program, $108 donated to the Consistory Flood Relief Fund, and $172 (10% of the chapter’s current balance in their treasury) was donated to their parish.

St. Peter and St. Paul Jr. UOL – Carnegie, PA News
Submitted by Danielle Walewski

The summer months have been busy and fun filled for our chapter. We kicked off the summer with our annual Church Picnic, where the whole church enjoyed liturgy, food, fellowship, and fun. Not only did the juniors get to have great food and great bingo, but we also got to elect an awesome new board for the year to come. This was just the beginning of our summer, lots more fun was in store.

We sent members to the always exciting Teenage Conference at All Saints Camp. All the campers returned happy and full of fun memories to share with the church. We also had six members attend the National UOL Convention. They had an amazing time, and on top of it all they proudly accepted the Jr. Chapter of the Year award! After convention one of our members, last year’s president Greg Markiw, attended the High School Mission Trip to St. Augustine, Florida. He returned grateful and with many pictures to share with the whole parish.

It was a great summer for the juniors, but as the school year begins we are all greatly anticipating the upcoming year. We hope to be helping with many events within the parish and will be hosting some other fun activities by ourselves. It should be a good year and we can’t wait to tell you all about it!
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.

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.
Please make check payable to Ukrainian Orthodox League.

Save the Date -
June 2-, 201-
5th Anniversary -
St. Thomas Chapel
-5th Anniversary -
All Saints Camp

START PLANNING FOR THE
UOL LENTEN RETREAT
Retreat will focus on the text
“The Way of a Pilgrim”
we encourage participants to read the book prior to the retreat
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013
NEW LOCATION!!!
VILLA OF OUR LADY RETREAT
HOUSE
MT. POCONO, PA

For more information contact
Natalie Bilynsky 610-892-7315
nsufler@aol.com