



UOL BULLETIN

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dedicated to our Church -- Devoted to its Youth

VOL. 71 NO. 3

DECEMBER 2024-JANUARY 2025

UOL Fellowship — Regional Events

For the last few years, the National UOL has been reviewing the strategic plan of the UOL. At part of this initiative, the UOL has identified that one of the many benefits of the UOL is the fellowship across parishes. The UOL had two successful regional events in the fall of 2024. One event was held in Eastern Pennsylvania and the second in Western Pennsylvania. We encourage you to attend future regional events and also to let our UOL membership know of events within your parish so that we can continue to enhance UOL Fellowship and build bonds between parishes.

Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Event

Submitted by Natalie Bilynsky



Western Pennsylvania Regional Event

Submitted by Shirley Duffy



On October 26th, members of the Philadelphia and Northampton chapters gathered at the Country Junction in the Lehigh Valley. It was a beautiful fall day and perfect to walk around the pumpkin festival in the area. We enjoyed watching the pre-juniors ride carnival rides and feed the animals. Also the group enjoyed a fall hayride around the camp grounds. Our hope is to plan events where both juniors and seniors from our local parishes can enjoy time together. A small committee has formed to help coordinate activities between our parishes. Our hope is to plan events where we can socialize and have a chance to get to know members from other parishes.



Everyone had a great time who attended the Ohio/Western PA Regional Event at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, PA on October 26, 2024! Participants received a Natural History Highlights Tour of the museum. Items such as fossils, dioramas, minerals, gems and dinosaurs were viewed. The tour lasted for about an hour and then a shelf-stable brown bag lunch held in the Guyaux Lunchroom. The participants filled out evaluation forms and the event got 5-star reviews.

We will schedule a tour of Rocks, Minerals and Gems on the last Saturday in October 2025. If you missed the event this year, consider coming next year. The Carnegie Museum of Natural History is a world class museum. Even the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. covets items in its collection and offers to purchase them from them for display at the Smithsonian.

We thank the staff and docents of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for making this event possible. Many thanks to Sts. Peter and Paul, Youngstown, OH for donating the funds for the treat bag party favors for the event.

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Save the Date for the 78th Annual UOL Convention

in Florida - July 23-27, 2025



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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.

All Saints Camp

Submitted by Josh Oryhon

A NOTE of GRATITUDE The summer of 2024 was a whirlwind of fun and fellowship at our summer home on the Allegheny River. Sincere thanks to the Program Directors and their staff members, Food Service Team, Facilities Stallions, Lifeguards and volunteers for a real good time! Since the summer program period concluded with a spectacular Family Fest (photo), we've been hard at work preparing for off-season events and planning for an even better #ASC2025 summer.



WARM HANDS ART THERAPY We were pleased to partner with the Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute (UCHI) to host an appearance by the renowned Ukrainian artist, art therapist, humanitarian and nation-rebuilder Tetiana Mialkovska on campus in October (photo). Tetiana is the founder and director of the non-profit organization Pyaternya, whose mission is to provide much-needed art therapy in war-torn Ukraine. Pyaternya's Warm Hands program offers interventional trauma therapy for orphaned and displaced children, widows and soldiers whose lives have been torn apart by the war. Ukraine is on the cutting edge of art therapy on a massive scale, this demonstration illustrated how the arts can facilitate healing and are pivotal in the resistance against the attempted annihilation of Ukrainian culture. After learning about the roots of the program and the incredible work done by Pyaternya, guests participated in a Master Class with Tetiana. Utilizing her art therapy curriculum, participants created their own emotional masterpieces.



EYES ON THE PRIZE: 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 josh@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.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UOL

Matushka Laryssa Charest



Glory to Jesus Christ!

Here we are, again, in my favorite season of the year. I love putting up Christmas decorations. We've graduated to more than one tree in the house and a large collection of Nutcrackers (my maiden name was Tschaikowsky so I just had to). I love seeing the trees go up in church, the beautifully decorated houses, the smell of the brisk air outside, the whole bit. I also love the witness of people giving. It's a beautiful time for sure.

In Acts, we read, 'it is better to give, than to receive.' I would bet we all make some sort of effort to give. Whether we are throwing coins into the Salvation Army kettle or slipping a couple of dollars to a homeless person we pass on the street. This extra help fills our hearts with a feeling of joy and gratitude. The UOL's Food Drive initiative is a great kickoff to this season of giving. We encourage UOL members to hold a drive in November, but it doesn't have to stop there. Your chapter could host multiple food drives or extend the collection time. The beauty of the project is, you can organize it in the way that works best for your chapter and parish.

How about our 'Praying Our Way' program? I'm hoping you signed up for that. If you haven't signed up yet, sign up. It's actually never too late to start a habit of prayer and scripture reading. It's a challenge but I encourage you to accept it. This is a great opportunity for people to expand their prayer discipline and to experience more than the Sunday Gospel and Epistle readings that we're already familiar with. This is a fantastic way to prepare for the Nativity of our Lord.

As you know, we have Souper Bowl Sunday coming up shortly after the Nativity. All proceeds collected from this event go to St. Andrew Society. St. Andrew Society uses our donation from this event to provide soup kitchens in Ukraine. On Souper Bowl Sunday, make a pot of soup, sell it to your friends, and send the money in to the UOL Financial Secretary, Oleh Bilynsky. We present a check to St. Andrew Society at our Annual Convention. Last year, we collected over \$11,000. This ministry continues to grow each year. Please help us make 2025 our biggest year yet!! Need a recipe? I'll give you one! This is a great way for anyone to get involved in a great cause. It's so simple.

How about Convention? Our Annual Convention is taking place in Tampa, Florida in 2025. Thankfully, the hurricanes that hit Florida this year didn't stop our Convention plans. We have our hotel: *The Godfrey Hotel and Cabanas*. It is located right on the water. You will be waking up to ocean views and participating in great presentations/workshops. The added bonus is you'll be with your UOL friends and have the opportunity to make new ones. Why would you want to miss out? Our hotel rate is \$109/night-king and \$114/night-double. The dates are July 23-27, 2025. Start getting excited, it will be here in no time.

As usual, I want to thank you for supporting the UOL. This lay organization is the pulse of our Church. IT gives life to our parishes. Don't be afraid to try something new or get involved in something that has been working for years. The UOL needs you. The Church needs you.

I appreciate all that you do and am grateful to have all the opportunities that the UOL gives, to grow in my faith with you. Thank you!

I remain, yours in Christ,
Matushka Laryssa Charest



Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA
Dedicate to our Church Devoted to our Youth

2025 Ohio/WPa Pan-Orthodox Retreat

The Language of Orthodoxy

Scripture & Verse

Experiencing Great Lent through the Prophets,
Psalmist, Saints and the Gospels

SAT., MARCH 15, 2025, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



2025 UOL Convention Tampa, Florida

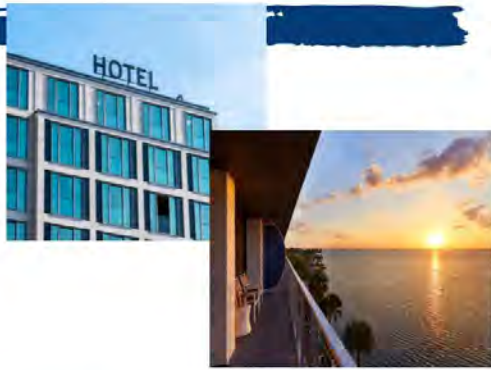
JOIN US

In sunny Florida for the 78th
Annual UOL Convention

July 23-27, 2025



Hotel Rates:
\$109/night KING
\$114/night Double



Join fellow UOL members for some fun,
informative workshops, and spiritual
renewal!
Stay tuned for a lot more information in
the coming weeks!!
You're not going to want to miss this
one!



uolofusa.org

MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR UOL PRESIDENT Mia Zetick



Христос Родиться! Christ is Born!

I, as well as the Junior Board, hope everyone is having a blessed Nativity season. Considering this time of year can be busy and hectic, I encourage everyone to take time out of their lives to appreciate one another as well as the church. There are many opportunities to give back to the church during this time. Souper Bowl Sunday is a fundraiser done on the Sunday of the Super Bowl in which soup is sold to donate to St. Andrew's Society. If your church is not already holding this fundraiser, advocate to start it! Also, please continue to build up your Junior Chapter, and involve them in fundraisers and events held at your church.

Another important aspect of the Nativity season is giving back to those in need. One way that we, as the board, are able to do this is through our Great Lent Giveaway. This happens during Great Lent, but we begin organizing and planning right around this time. This year's recipient has not yet been determined, but we have been working to decide on one. This will be organized by our Vice President Danylo Kondryshyn, as well as the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. We look forward to giving back this upcoming Lenten season and we hope that you can join us!

Many physical gifts may be given and received this winter, but we cannot forget to also spread our love for one another. Be involved in church life and in the lives of others around you. Love each other and spread our faith!

May the Nativity of Christ bring you love, peace and joy!

Yours in Christ,
Mia Zetick

Annual Fund Drive

**Please support the Ukrainian Orthodox League's
Annual Drive for UOL Projects,
Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship,
And Metropolitan John Scholarship Funds**

Donations to UOL Projects will be used for:

- *Publication of the **UOL BULLETIN**
- *Supporting the Youth Commission's activities
- *Outreach through the Christian Care-Giving and Missions Commission
- *Continuation of the Education Commission projects and services
- *Public Relations and other administrative necessities

Donations to the Lynn Sawchuk-Sharon Kuzbyt Scholarship fund will:

- *Provide Scholarships to current or former Junior UOL members who are leaders in their parishes and communities and committed to their faith
- *Nurture the future leaders of our Church
- *Foster the UOL's motto: "Devoted to its Youth"

Donations to the MJSF Scholarship Fund will:

- *Provide tuition assistance to seminarians at our St. Sophia's Seminary
- *Encourage candidates to the Holy Priesthood
- *Provide tuition assistance to our clergy and seminarians for higher education

**Please take a moment and use the enclosed
Envelope to make your donation today!!**

Regional Christmas Fellowship
Sponsored by St. Vladimir UOL
A wonderful family experience!
Friday, December 27, 2024



During the Day:
Come see the beautiful decorations in Philadelphia:
Dickens Christmas Carol
Macy's Light Show
Comcast Spectacular

Fr-L2-L2-L2 fun for all!

In the Evening - have dinner and join the family friendly game night (similar to game night at the UOL Convention) at St. Vladimir Parish Hall.

Come for the day events, come for the evening, come for both! The event is free!

Let Natalie Eibnsky know if you are interested
nsuffer@aol.com

Carnegie Fall News
Submitted by Chris Mills
Sts. Peter & Paul Sr. UOL Chapter Reporter

As the leaves begin to change their color in September, so begins the Carnegie Sr. UOL Chapter's busy season! The beginning highlight to the events this year was our 13th Annual Ukrainian Food Festival! The two-day event held Friday and Saturday, highlighted our Ukrainian Kitchen, a bake sale table, and our famous raffle baskets! We also had various Ukrainian tables with items for purchase. Despite making more food to sell than other years, the popular event sold out on Saturday afternoon, hours before the planned end time!



*Sts Peter & Paul, Carnegie
 September 13, 2024 4:50 PM*

And no, we did not forget about our pysanky sessions! Despite it being summer and fall, we continued with a few sessions a month! During this time, we were able to teach our new parishioners the art of Ukrainian Pysanky! Sessions will continue through the fall and occur more frequently as soon as the Christmas Season is done. Planning for our 57th Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg sale is already underway! You are welcome to visit and shop at our event, on Western Palm Sunday!



September 12, 2024 12:46 PM

As a result of our successful events, we have been able to make donations or contribute funds to various local charities, ASC, our camping programs and toward the need of new roofs for our parish buildings.

During the Advent season our chapter will sponsor our annual prayer pal program. Parishioners can participate and receive a "prayer pal" who they pray for during Advent. It helps

to enhance our prayer time and remember others. At Christmas, the person who was prayed for receives a small token and the person's prayer pal is revealed.

Congratulations to our new officers for the upcoming year! President-Tracey Sally; Vice-President-Brittany Bretell; Secretary-Victoria Swindle; Treasurer-Michael Kapeluck; Asst. Treasurer-Michele Kapeluck; Reporter-Chris Mills; Auditors-Bonnie Reinhart, Alexis Sawchuk

Our diverse members use their talents to their best abilities and where they feel comfortable! We appreciate all their time and effort they give to not only UOL events but also to the parish! Members will be helping with upcoming parish events such as the 121st Parish Anniversary Banquet, Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Group Annual Show, Thanksgiving Day Open House, St. Matrona's Annual Cookie walk along with various church services. The Carnegie Sr. UOL is looking forward to introducing our chapter and the UOL to new parish members and visitors in the upcoming months.

Ways and Means Commission News
Teresa Linck
Ways and Means Commission Chairperson

In the Bulletin, you will find the donation envelope for the UOL Annual Fund Drive. As you can see the UOL needs the support of individuals and chapters to complete the tasks they have championed.

1. Annual Fund Drive

This drive is to raise funds for general UOL operations and donations. We are always making donations to the seminary and to All Saints Camp, and without your and your chapter's help, we cannot accomplish all we wish to do. So please think of sending a donation or encouraging your chapter to make a donation.

2. LSSK Scholarship Fund

As you know we give scholarships to college age individuals of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church who are planning on continuing their education past high school. These scholarships are presented at each UOL convention. As a parent who has sent two daughters to college, I cannot thank the UOL enough for their generous scholarships for both young women. Please think of donating, you can donate to remember someone or to honor someone. Please remember Lynn and Sharon in your prayers.


3. MJSF

The Metropolitan John Scholarship Fund was created to help the young men who are starting their theological journey to become priests in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Each year we give the seminarians money to help defer the cost of their education. Please remember that these young men will someday be your parish priests, please help them with their journey. Always remember these fine young men in your prayers.

Each Bulletin you see a section for the **Tribute Fund**. What a lovely way to honor someone, celebrate a once in a lifetime event or memorialize someone. Please continue to support this worthwhile project.

Lenten Retreat
April 5, 2025
"Perfect in Beauty, God shines forth"

Psalm 50:2
Retreat will focus on beauty and how we are called to do something beautiful for God



Speakers:
 Fr. Anthony Perkins
 Fr. Roman Marchyshak

Basilian Spirituality Center
710 Fox Chase Rd,
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Retreat registration:
 \$45 for adults (early bird rate) - \$55 after 3/23/25
 \$35 for adolescents (aged 13 to 18) - \$45 after 3/23/25
 Free for children 7 to 12- \$25 after 3/23/25
 Registration includes breakfast, lunch and snacks.
 For more information contact: Oleh or Natalie at nsufler@aol.com
 call - 610-892-7315


(Eastern Pa Regional Event– continued from page 1)



(Western Pa Regional Event– continued from page 1)



Regional UOL Event
 Enjoy a fun-filled day at
 Bethlehem Christkindlmarket
 Saturday December 14, 2024
 Meet at the market at 1:00 (we will identify exact entrance)
 Enjoy shopping, fellowship
 Ticket prices \$15 if purchased day of the event. If we purchase
 tickets in advance they are \$14 and \$11 for groups of 20 or more.
 Children 5 and under are free.
 Please confirm with Natalie nsufler@aol.com by December 8th.



Greetings from Philly!

Submitted by Andi Swan

After a much needed post-convention hiatus, we are back! It was wonderful to plan for the UOL Convention but now we are returning to our typical schedule. Following the Convention we had our Chapter elections and our officers are:

President - Andi Swan
 Vice President/Jr. Advisor - Natalie Bilynsky
 Treasurer - Oleh Bilynsky
 Secretary - Karen Ferraro
 Junior Advisor - Matushka Laura Naumenko

We hosted a pot-luck dinner where we encouraged all parishioners to attend the meeting and set our schedule for the year. We were thrilled that we had several young adults attend our meeting and are working to specifically encourage them to participate.

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we have many projects and events planned! For the months of October and November, we have been collecting canned goods to support the National UOL project to commemorate the Holodomor. The support for this project has been overwhelmingly positive! Our parishioners and chapter members have been so generous!

On November 24th, we had a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with our In-house chef, Matushka Laura. Every year Matushka is the chairperson and she plans a lovely dinner for the entire parish. This year we were honored that His Eminence Metropolitan Antony celebrated the Divine Liturgy. Every year the



entire proceeds from this event are donated, and this year we decided to donate the proceeds to All Saints Camp and our parish Hope Fund (which supports Ukraine). It was wonderful that our Juniors and our Young Adults who were home from college helped us with preparation and serving. It was a beautiful day, one for which we are incredibly thankful!



For the months of December and January, Natalie Bilynsky has been busy coordinating regional fellowship events with our neighboring chapters and parishes. We are planning to visit Bethlehem Christkindlmarket, Christmas Lights in Philly and also hosting Family Fun night back at the church hall. There are ads for these events in the UOL Bulletin and also on-line.

Oh, and we can't forget that our Senior and Junior UOL plan Christmas Caroling on January 4th. For many years we have donated all of our proceeds to All Saints Camp and this year we plan to do the same.

If you are in the Philly area over the holidays, please come and join us!

LSSK NEWS Submitted by Teresa Linck

Although the application deadline for the LSSK Scholarship is not until May, it is never too early to start thinking about your LSSK scholarship application. Some things you can get done early are:

Spiritual Advisor's recommendation letter and the Junior Chapter Advisor's letter of recommendation. Each must be in a sealed envelope with their signature across the seal.

Start thinking about who you would ask in school for a recommendation: Your guidance counselor? A favorite teacher? Maybe even your principal? Just remember they are all very busy toward the end of the year because of all the college application information that needs to be completed by them. Their recommendation letter also needs to be in a sealed envelope with their name across the seal.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at: tlinck430@gmail.com. The forms are on the web site.

(All Saints Camp - continued from page 2)

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.

RENT ALL SAINTS CAMP ASC is available to host special events in addition to summer camp programs. Rent all or a portion of the campus for weddings, reunions, retreats, conferences, etc. Included below is the Calendar of events for 2025. 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.

2025 ASC CALENDAR*

- April 4-5 Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church (Carnegie, PA)
Men's Retreat
 - June 11-15 Northwest Pennsylvania 4-H
 - 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
 - January 17-18, 2026 Malanka at ASC
- *calendar subject to change*

Souper Bowl Sunday Submitted by Anna Anderson

Each year the UOL sponsors a Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser to raise money for St. Andrew's Society. St. Andrew's Society uses donations to help fight hunger in Ukraine. Soup kitchens are established all over Ukraine to feed the hungry. Food staples are delivered to shut-ins and the needy. In recent years, St. Andrew's Society has expanded its humanitarian aid to help the families of Ukrainian soldiers. With the Russian aggression, it is even more imperative that we raise as much money as possible for the hungry in Ukraine.

Souper Bowl Sunday will be on February 9, 2025. We encourage each parish to use their creativity to raise funds for the Society. You can have a soup fellowship, sell quarts of homemade soups, collect donations in soup pots, etc. Think outside the box!

Monies raised for St. Andrew's Society should be sent to the NEB Financial Secretary, Oleh Bilynsky at 703 Pine Ridge Road, Media, PA 19063. Anyone wishing to donate individually is asked to send their donation c/o Oleh Bilynsky.

UOL Bulletin Pictures



Anna Anderson reading the UOL Bulletin in St. Louis.



Oleh Bilynsky reads the UOL Bulletin in Stockholm, Sweden.

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



Michael and Emily Nako-nachny with a group of UOL members and supporters in Alaska.



Michael and Melanie Nako-nachny read the UOL Bulletin in Alaska.



In Copenpenhagen, Oleh was hoping that he could get a position as a royal guard, unfortunately he was reading the UOL Bulletin and had no opportunity to wear the spiffy uniform and hat.

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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.

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

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ORGANIZATION
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PERMIT NO 1186

Donor **In Honor of**

No Tributes this issue

Please remember to submit your Tribute today!!

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!

**Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA
Christian Caregiving and
Missions Commission
Announces**

**“Souper Bowl” Sunday
February 9, 2025**

**Sponsor a “Souper Bowl Sunday” Fundraising event
at your parish or just make a donation!**

**Proceeds benefit St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Society
for soup kitchens in Ukraine serving the most needy**



Please send fundraiser proceeds and donations payable to:
Ukrainian Orthodox League
c/o Oleh Bilynsky, Financial Secretary
703 Pine Ridge Road
Media, PA 19063

Questions? Contact Senior UOL Christian Caregiving and Missions’ Chairperson, email Anna Anderson via the UOL email.



**Save the Date!!!
July 23-27, 2025
UOL Convention
Tampa, Florida**

**More info to follow!
Stay tuned!**