



Welcome



Dear Friends,

A fresh new year is upon us once again. It's an opportunity to be thankful for the blessings of the past year and to take stock of all our achievements. At the same time, 2018 will offer the chance to start strong and to catch up on everything we hope to do this year.

Our plans for 2018 include:

- Overhauling our website
- Applying for grants
- Continuing with the renovation of our Cultural Center
- Overhauling the gift shop and establishing an on-line sales department
- Having access to or providing assistance for speakers and performers
- Holding the C-RS Board of Directors election

2018 marks 100 years since the creation of Czechoslovakia and the role Rusyns played in that process. We will be celebrating this anniversary throughout the year with events and in C-RS Connection and the NRT.

Take care,

Maryann Sivak, C-RS National President

president@c-rs.org

Kick-Off Announcement - 2018 Election of C-RS Officers

Now that 2018 has arrived, it is time for the Carpatho-Rusyn Society (C-RS) to begin planning for the election of board members for 2019-2021 term. In accordance with the C-RS' by-laws that were made effective on 11 November 2012, the C-RS must hold an election every three (3) years to elect a board of directors. The last election was held in 2015.

It is important that the membership is aware of the importance of electing a strong and viable Board of Directors (BOD) that will carry the C-RS forward as it continues to preserve and perpetuate the distinct culture, history, language, and heritage of the Carpatho-Rusyn people. To that end, starting the election process now in January will help assure a viable BOD by year's end.

Rather than waiting until the October-November timeframe to promote the elections and recruit candidates for office, the elections committee has decided to implement an ongoing membership awareness and promotion campaign early in the year and continue throughout the year. The goal is to stimulate membership awareness and encourage members to step up and consider taking on a leadership role as potential candidates and have their names placed on the ballot.

The ongoing awareness campaign will utilize all the various media available to the C-RS throughout the year such as the New Rusyn Times, the C-RS Connection, email blasts, social media, Rusyn Heritage Radio program and mass mailings.

Candidates must be:

- at least twenty-one (21) years of age
- a member in good standing; the definition of good standing is a member who is current in their membership dues

Candidates are elected by a simple majority vote by the general membership. Candidates who are elected will serve for a three (3) year term. The newly elected candidates will assume their office on January 1, 2019.

The BOD is comprised of the following offices: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Financial Administrator, Chief Information Officer and Six (6) Trustees. Specific details as to duties, and responsibility will be addressed in upcoming notices.

The election committee is comprised of Tom Brenzovich (Reno NV) chairperson, Christy Slifkey (Sterling VA) and Leslie Lazar-Thorn (Seattle WA).

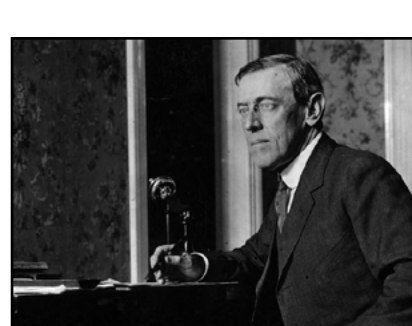
In closing, it is not too early to begin thinking about the election and who might be potential candidates. Please give it some thought! We hope to hear from you during the upcoming months. You certainly will be hearing from us.

Yours in Rusyn Unity,

Tom Brenzovich and the C-RS 2018 Election Committee

An Important Milestone

Courtesy of Maryann Sivak



January 8th is a special day in the history of US-Czechoslovak relations. On this day in 1918, Woodrow Wilson first announced his 14 Points, a blueprint for peace, in a speech to the US Congress. In that speech President Wilson spoke about freedom and self-determination for various nations living within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Thus, on October 28, 1918, Czechoslovakia was created. Under democratic Czechoslovakia, for the first time ever, Rusyns thrived.

On this anniversary both the Czech Republic and Slovakia will begin their celebrations of 100 years since the creation of Czechoslovakia and the relationship between the US and both countries. However, this mutual relationship started much earlier than 1918 and dates to the 19th century and the start of the migration of hundreds of thousands from Austria-Hungary to America. Besides Wilson's 14 Points, another important milestone was the 1918 Pittsburgh Agreement which took place a few months later and documented the intent for an independent Czechoslovakia.

During the coming year, we'll tell you about Rusyn history and the role Rusyns played in the creation of Czechoslovakia. We will talk about how the Rusyns enriched American culture and the extraordinary things Rusyns did for America. This includes people such as Michael Strank, who fought to liberate the Pacific from Imperial Japan during World War II. We will discuss little known facts about Rusyns that we hope you will find of interest! Stay tuned.



Save the Dates

Sunday, February 4, Parma, OH

The C-RS Cleveland branch presents "Comparing the Genealogy Giants: Ancestry, Family Search, Findmypast and MyHeritage" by Sunny Morton from 2-4 pm at the Parma Library, 6996 Powers Drive, Parma, OH. The program will be presented in a webinar format created by familytreewebinars.com. If you are not familiar with this site, please take a look. Webinars are presented every Wednesday and are available for one week for viewing. After that they are archived and a subscription is required to view many wonderful programs about genealogy. The presenters are highly qualified and knowledgeable and include names you would find at large genealogy conferences.



By getting together to view this program, we will have an opportunity to have a discussion period afterward. You never know when you will get that bit of information to help you further your research.

Keep in mind this is February and, with the winter we have been having, the potential for inclement weather could be a factor. An email will be sent the morning of the 4th if the program is cancelled. Check it out before heading to the library.



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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 or Facebook: Carpatho-Rusyns Dallas.



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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.

News contributions are welcome!

Please submit your content to am@c-rs.org.

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<http://www.c-rs.org>

Membership site: <https://carpathorusynsociety.wildapricot.org/>

Please submit news contributions to 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/>