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Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization - USA Joins the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), Parsippany, NJ – During this week's Town Hall, we shared that Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization - USA (Plast USA) had applied to join the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). We are proud to announce that our application has been accepted. This decision was made during the UCCA National Council's biannual meeting, held at the Ukrainian National Association headquarters in Parsippany, NJ.

This moment marks a significant milestone in our organization's journey and reaffirms our commitment to unity within the broader Ukrainian American community. The vote by the UCCA's National Council, following the recommendation of its Membership Committee, reflects a shared vision for the future of our diaspora—one that places youth, service, and cultural preservation at its core.

"Plast USA is proud to stand alongside the broader Ukrainian American community, represented by our vibrant membership of over 3,400 individuals," said Mark Jakubowycz, chairman of Plast USA's National Board of Directors. "Together with the UCCA, we recognize that the future of our community depends on empowering and engaging our youth. Without their active participation, the vitality of our 'hromada' cannot be sustained. We are excited to add our voice in support of Ukraine and the rapidly expanding Ukrainian diaspora in the USA."

Incorporated in the United States in 1950, Plast USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the development of Ukrainian youth through a values-based program rooted in faith, service, and leadership. With branches across the country, Plast USA provides thousands of young people with opportunities to grow into responsible citizens and remains a proud representation of Ukrainian heritage.

This renewed partnership with the UCCA strengthens our collective voice and enhances our ability to advocate for Ukraine and Ukrainian Americans at a national level. It also aligns with UCCA's ongoing efforts to unify the community, as emphasized by UCCA President Michael Sawkiw, Jr., during the XXIII UCCA Congress in October 2024.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization as the UCCA's newest member organization," said Sawkiw. "During this year's 85th anniversary of the founding of the UCCA, we look forward to Plast's participation in the UCCA and its many contributions to the development of Ukrainian youth in the United States. The youth is our community's future."

To our members: we wanted you to hear this news directly from us. This step forward is not just symbolic—it is strategic. It ensures that the voices of our youth and our volunteers are represented in the national dialogue shaping the future of the Ukrainian American community.

We thank the UCCA for their warm welcome and look forward to working together in service of our shared mission.

About Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization - USA: <u>Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization – USA</u> is a registered nonprofit youth organization dedicated to developing leadership, character, and cultural identity among Ukrainian youth. Plast USA is a growing organization with over 3,400 members nationwide, including approximately 1,600 youth between the ages of 6 and 17. Our members are organized into 27 branches across 15 states, fostering leadership, community service, and Ukrainian cultural identity through scouting and educational programs.

**About Ukrainian Congress Committee of America:** <u>Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA)</u> is a not-for-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

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