

## **Junior Membership and Chapter Development**

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### **Membership and Chapter Development**

We believe that the major issue as far as developing new chapters in the United States is caused by a language barrier between English- and Ukrainian-speaking church members. It was discovered that the majority of parishes in the diocese were Ukrainian-speaking communities, and considering all of the paperwork written by the UOL is mostly, if not all, in English, this creates a major barrier and can be intimidating to those communities that mainly don't speak English. In order to address this issue, as well as to explain to these and other parishes about the UOL, we have come up with a presentation idea. The presentation would, preferably, be done by a National or Junior National Executive Board member. If one is not available, an executive from a nearby chapter could do the presentation. The actual presentation would consist of the video made at the Parma convention, along with a new pamphlet detailing what the UOL does that is available in Ukrainian and English. In addition to this presentation, the National Executive Board could request to host a meeting at the parish, in order to physically demonstrate what a UOL chapter does. In addition, this committee would like to further address the disconnect that exists between Ukrainian- and English- speaking parishes. We propose that UOL documents and flyers be translated into Ukrainian, in addition to the usual English. We also suggest that the

National Board members, both Junior and Senior, learn common conversational Ukrainian phrases, *Отче Наш*, etc., in order to better connect with the Ukrainian parishes. It has come to our attention that the Ukrainian parents are concerned their children won't learn much about their culture through an organization such as the UOL. To mitigate this fear, this committee recommends encouraging chapters to explore Ukrainian culture, as well as to recommend that the Convention keeps holding the cultural night.

To help keep the Jr. UOL chapters better connected, we recommend that the newly combined Secretary position revitalize the Facebook, Twitter, and/or other social media presence. In doing this, the Jr. National Executive Board and any other parish could share events, ideas, projects, and any other manner of things that may be of use to each other. Items such as the Parma Convention video could also be shared through such a page or group.

For further interaction between Junior Chapters around the country, we are re-submitting a recommendation from last year that there be a national lock-in "month". The Jr. National Executive Board should decide on one or two months out of the year in which the lock-ins should take place and then encourage the various chapters to hold their lock-ins during that month or two. A slight change to this recommendation is that the chapters try to continue on with camp or Convention themes in these lock-ins, or if they have other ideas, to present them to the Board so that the idea could be shared with other chapters. During the lock-in month(s), a group chat can be set up through the Jr. UOL social media account in order for the chapters to share and discuss their ideas online with other chapters.

This committee would also like to recommend more collaboration between the Junior and Senior chapters. We suggest holding meetings in collaboration with the Seniors a couple times throughout the year. We also suggest hosting joint events, such as a family night, game night, etc, to provide further collaboration. This will also help make the transition from Jr. to Sr. less difficult.

In order to address the issue of beginning Junior chapters, we recommend coming up with more pre-Junior activities. This way, the younger children can learn a little about being a Junior without the stress of holding positions they don't quite understand yet. We also suggest that new chapters emphasize that their activities are done by the Jr. UOL in order to pique interest about the organization.

We hope these ideas will help encourage new participants in the Jr. UOL and invigorate old members.