



# The Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America

CRConsortium@gmail.com

www.rusynmedia.org/consortium

**United States**  
1817 - 121st Avenue NE  
Blaine, Minnesota  
55449

**Canada**  
PO Box 21133  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7H 5N9

Carpatho-Rusyn  
Research Center  
New York, New York

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## *October 26 Declared as Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America*

Carpatho-Rusyn Society  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**MINNEAPOLIS / SASKATOON** – The Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America, a coalition of six cultural organizations representing the Rusyn people, has designated October 26 as Carpatho-Rusyn Day in the United States and Canada. The Consortium is asking its constituent organizations, and civic bodies in those countries, to commemorate and celebrate, at their discretion and in an appropriate manner, the history and culture of Carpatho-Rusyns on or near this date.

Rusin Association  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Rusyn Association  
of North America  
Kitchener, Ontario

The designation comes after a decision by the World Council of Rusyns, in which the Consortium participates, for Rusyn organizations in each country in which they live to choose an appropriate date on which Rusyns will be recognized at a national level. October 26 was chosen for the United States and Canada to commemorate a gathering at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1918 at which Carpatho-Rusyns were recognized for the first time as a distinct nationality by the member nationalities of the Mid-European Union as well as by the United States government.

Rusyn-Saskatchewan  
Ruthenian Association Inc.  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

### ***Background***

World Academy of  
Rusyn Culture  
Toronto, Ontario

In the fall of 1918, Carpatho-Rusyns joined in New York City with representatives of twenty other stateless peoples to form the Mid-European Democratic Union. The three-member delegation representing Carpatho-Rusyns was chosen by the community's largest immigrant organizations, comprised of members living in the United States and Canada. On October 26, 1918, representatives of twenty-one stateless peoples gathered in historic Independence Hall in Philadelphia (in the very room where America's Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in 1776), where they signed a Declaration of Common Aims.

This was the first time in modern history that Carpatho-Rusyns (also known as Lemkos, Rusnaks, Ruthenians, or Uhro-Rusins) were recognized as a distinct nationality by neighboring peoples and by the United States government which approved of the Mid-European Union's Declaration of Common Aims. During

**MORE**

## **National Carpatho-Rusyn Day in North America, pg. 2**

the October 26 signing of the Declaration of Common Aims, a large-scale map was displayed showing the proposed new states of Europe, on which the homeland of Carpatho-Rusyns was clearly depicted by the name Rusinia. Lemko Rusyns living on the northern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains also expressed a desire to be part of Rusinia, and they proposed that idea to the Paris Peace Conference. In the end, only Carpatho-Rusyns living south of the mountains were allowed to join, on a voluntary basis, the new state of Czechoslovakia. According to the Paris Peace Conference (Treaty of St. Germain, 1919), Rusinia—now renamed Subcarpathian Rus’—was to function as an autonomous (self-governing) territory within Czechoslovakia. The head of the Carpatho-Rusyn delegation at the Mid-European Union in Philadelphia, the American lawyer Gregory Zhatkovych (in English, Zatkovich), was appointed the first governor of Subcarpathian Rus’.

*The Carpatho-Rusyn Consortium of North America ([www.rusynmedia.org/consortium](http://www.rusynmedia.org/consortium)) was formed in 2009 as a coalition of cultural organizations representing the Rusyn people. It enables Carpatho-Rusyns in North America to more effectively act on issues affecting their communities in the U.S. and Canada, and advocate on behalf of Carpatho-Rusyns in their European countries of origin. The consortium will also represent North America’s Carpatho-Rusyns on the World Council of Rusyns which meets every six months and holds the World Congress of Rusyns every two years.*

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