

TWG Membership 2005 Annual Report

by Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky

Membership in general stands at 235, an increase of 51 from two years ago. This consists of 109 Full members, 98 Associate members, and 11 Student members. There are two Corporate members and Honorary members remain at 10.

Perhaps the greatest factor in the increase in membership is the heightened awareness of Ukrainians following the Orange Revolution late last year. Also contributing to a rise in membership is the 20th Anniversary TWG Leadership Conference held last year and the steady number of events TWG has held over the last two years.

There are a number of things that can be done to help maintain and increase membership levels. Probably one of the best things we can do is to send Membership Renewal Notices periodically. This year, TWG changed its membership durations from annual to one that follows the calendar year. Therefore, renewal notices will go out at least to everyone at the end of every year. Sending these letters helps to remind members to renew their membership and thus maintains retention. Member expiration dates are also always placed on the address labels of mass mailings.

A number of events in the upcoming year will likely increase membership levels. TWG plans to publish a new Membership Directory this year. The 2001/2002 TWG Membership Directory, published in the fall of 2001, listed a record number of members. The request to current and expired members to update their member information for the Directory historically increases membership significantly. Furthermore, TWG newsletters, brochures, and sign-up sheets will be placed at Ukrainian events and establishments for individuals to submit their addresses so that the Membership Director may send application materials.

In addition, we thank TWG website's founder and keeper since 1998, Steve Boyduy, for his long dedicated service, and we welcome the new TWG Webmaster Volodymyr Hnativ, from Stryy, Ukraine, currently in Houston, TX, who we know will follow well in Steve's footsteps. The website facilitates communication with our members, draws new members, and provides others with information about our organization and activities. Finally, we welcome our new Membership Director, Christine Redko, a graduating student at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.

All TWG members can help by actively recruiting new and former members and volunteering to either organize or help with TWG events. Maintaining TWG Membership levels continues to be a team effort, and in addition to all the Board Members, I would especially like to thank Mykola Babiak for printing and sending out a the mail, including expiration notices, post cards, and new and potential member packages. Also, I appreciate Natalia Sluzar's efforts in periodically picking up the mail, which I know from experience is no small effort. TWG is a very dynamic group and will continue to be so for years to come. Thank you.