

TWG Membership 2006 Annual Report

Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky

Membership stands at 258, 21 more than one year ago. This consists of 122 currently paid Full members, 108 Associate members, 15 Student members, one Corporate member and 10 Honorary members.

Perhaps the greatest factor in the increase in membership this year is the response to the announcement of the anticipated Membership Directory. In addition, I credit the increased inspiration following the Orange Revolution in 2004. Maintaining a steady number of events over the last year also contributes.

There are a number of things that can be done to help maintain and increase membership levels. One of the best things is to send Membership Renewal Notices periodically. Last year, TWG changed its membership durations from one year to date to one that follows the calendar year. Therefore, Renewal Notices are sent out to everyone at the end of every calendar year. Member expiration dates are also always placed on the address labels of certain mass mailings.

A number of events in the upcoming year will likely increase membership levels. We plan to publish a new Membership Directory this year. The advertising revenue already generated, thanks to Yaro Belendiuk, will likely more than cover its cost. 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. TWG also plans to increase the number of events it sponsors.

I would like to welcome our new Membership Director, Marta Matselioukh, a graduating student at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service who has offered to take the helm. I thank last year's webmaster Volodymyr Hnatiw who succeeded Steve Boyduy who served in this capacity since 1998. Steve also continues to serve well as our electronic announcement mailer. In February, Tanya Kramaska, who had previously served on the Board, graciously volunteered to administrate the website and has worked very diligently since. The website provides an efficient method to communicate with our members, draws new members, and offers information about our organization and activities. We are also evaluating the possibility of accepting payments through the website. Finally, to decrease the amount of mailing by members and labor required to maintain the database, we are evaluating the cost-benefit of a password protected web-based membership database.

All members can help by volunteering to help with events and functions. Maintaining Membership levels continues to be a team effort. I would especially like to thank Mykola Babiak for printing and sending out mailings, including expiration notices, post cards, and new and potential member packages. I also appreciate Olenka Vashchenko'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.