

President's Report
The Washington Group Annual Membership Meeting
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The activity and my focus on TWG since assuming the Presidency last June has been a flurry and engrossing, but personally rewarding. This has been a year of transition. This report lists some of our accomplishments, current efforts, and future proposals.

TWG co-organized a number of events. The first major event was the Ukrainian Independence Day picnic at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. Many attended this event to everybody's satisfaction.

The second event was the talk "After the Orange Revolution: the U.S. and Ukraine" relations featuring Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Eurasia David Kramer and Taras Kuzio, held in October at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). This event was also well attended.

TWG assisted in and co-sponsored the third annual Washington, DC area Ukrainian Festival held in Silver Spring, Maryland, now a staple in our community.

We co-hosted the St. Valentine's Day Zabava at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church. This was the second such event held in two years.

In April, TWG co-hosted at SAIS former Freedom House director Adrian Karatnycky, U.S. Helsinki Commission's Orest Deychakiwsky, and SAIS PhD student Serhiy Kudelia for a talk on Ukraine's recent parliamentary elections. The event was also well received.

Thanks to Andrew Sorokowski, we organized the 20th Anniversary Chornobyl Commemoration with candlelight vigil at the Shevchenko Monument. The event was well attended with participation from three local Ukrainian pastors and the Embassy.

The Cultural Fund acquired a new and capable leader, Marta Zielyk, last year and continues to sponsor quality events which celebrate Ukrainian culture. Since fall, the Cultural Fund has sponsored four events which are described in its report.

Meanwhile, "Ukrainian Socials" are held the first Friday at the Smithsonian's Sculpture Garden on the Mall in summer and Leopold's Café in Georgetown off-season. These events are well attended and provide a forum for networking and socializing.

Besides public events, other activities take place. One major achievement is the publication of the TWG News thanks to George Masiuk who put it together solo.

In addition, I was invited to meet with Foreign Minister Borys Tarasiuk and U.S. diaspora leaders twice. The Embassy invites TWG representatives to national diaspora

coordination meetings. Such invitations foster relations with the Embassy for which I thank Natalia Holub and Ihor Kotlarchuk.

Another achievement is that for first time in four years, TWG gained more revenue than it spent. This is due to increased revenue from members for inclusion into the upcoming updated Membership Directory, associated advertising revenue, and a reduction in event costs. This revenue will cover the cost of printing and mailing. I thank Yaro Belendiuk for generating 100 letters of solicitation for advertising. We hope to distribute the Membership Directory by the end of May thanks to Yaro Bihun.

In addition, I thank Yaro for becoming Vice President. Many deserve praise. The website is an efficient communication tool well worth its cost. I thank Steve Boyduy who founded and maintained the website for years, Volodymyr Hnatiw as webmaster last year, and Tanya Kramaska who recently took over. Keeping the website up to date in an active organization is no small effort.

Marta Matselioukh, last year's Embassy intern among 50 applicants, accepted the offer to become Membership Director. The Director has the important function in keeping largest database of Ukrainians in our area and the Directory.

We welcome Andriy Hodovanets as Fellowship Fund Director who collected and forwarded applications to the Embassy this year. I thank Mike Drabyk who helped him transition. Mike also generously hosts Board meetings in his home every other month.

Others are also vital. Svitlana Kozyr is a reliable treasurer. Mykola Babiak constantly prints and distributes announcements and member packages. Olena Vashchenko as Public Relations Director sends announcements to the Ukrainian Weekly, distributes the mail, and posts events on Brama.com. Ken Bossong maintains the growing e-mail list. Steve Boyduy sends e-mail announcements with the software he created.

We plan a number of events in the future. Ihor Kotlarchuk with the Ukrainian Coordination Council of America is organizing an evening with the Ukrainian Ambassador at the Army-Navy Club 18 May for the community. Andriy Bihun offered to organize a panel on economics and business in Ukraine. Ken Bossong will help organize a panel on energy policy in Ukraine. Other potential events include panels on minorities in Ukraine, human trafficking, and Ukraine's prospects for Euro-Atlantic integration. We also are considering a Requiem in November for Holodomor. And of course, TWG's Cultural events are held constantly and well received.

The budget is tight. I look for ways to share resources with other organizations. I seek sponsors to host future events to increase cost-sharing. We must invest in new technology to make our work more productive and efficient and continually evaluate the cost-benefit of where we place limited resources. My priorities are 1) raise revenue, 2) hold more events, 3) recruit volunteers, 4) invest and spend wisely, and 5) organize with others. I thank everybody for their support, seek your suggestions, and look forward to supporting you in the future.