

Adrian Pidlusky (2005-2009)

When I was elected TWG President in June 2000, it marked the transition from the generation that founded TWG to a younger generation. TWG had established its reputation for promoting social interaction among its members and with the broader community and for staging quality cultural and political events. I was determined to build on the work of TWG's founders.

TWG expanded its monthly social gatherings. TWG members and prospective members met regularly in Georgetown to establish friendships and professional contacts. Our social gatherings were then posted on Facebook. TWG also worked with other Ukrainian-American organizations to put on Christmas parties, Malankas, and Ukrainian Independence Day picnics. TWG published a Membership Directory so that TWG members could quickly locate members with similar or complimentary interests.

The TWG Cultural Fund, an integral part of TWG, led ably Marta Zielyk (2006-2008) and then by Chrystyna Kinal staged over 20 events (2005-2009) consisting mostly of concerts but including films and book presentations.

The TWG Business Forum led by Andrew Bihun staged an evening devoted to Trade and Investment in Ukraine – Current Prospects and Challenges (see Video 2006-20/30).

TWG was involved in the United States political process. It joined numerous Ukrainian-American organizations in asking the U.S. Congress to remove Ukraine from the restrictions imposed by the Jackson-Vanik amendment ([Link](#)). The following are examples of the events TWG organized to further the engagement of Ukrainian-Americans and the broader community with political processes.

TWG organized an evening during which Roman Popadiuk, who served as deputy assistant to the president, provided a view of the discussions and deliberations inside the President George H. W. Bush administration during the critical years leading up to Ukraine's independence (see Video 2007-10).

TWG co-sponsored an evening during which the "Unfinished Business of the Orange Revolution" was discussed by Judge Bohdan Futey, Political Analyst Taras

Kuzio, and American journalist Jaroslav Koshiv. Issues of “rule of law” and political coalition building in Ukraine were discussed (Video 2007-10/20).

TWG sponsored an evening at the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS) where Adrian Karatnycky (Founder, President, Orange Circle), Orest Deychakiwsky (OSCE Election Observer) and Serhij Kudelia (Ph.D Candidate at SAIS) analyzed the results of the 2006 Ukrainian Parliamentary elections (Video 2006-10).

TWG sponsored an evening at SAIS where Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia David Kramer and Taras Kuzio analyzed U.S.-Ukraine relations ([Link](#)).

TWG in conjunction with Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America, The Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Shevchenko Scientific Society honored its distinguished member Oleksa-Myron Bilaniuk. Dr. Bilaniuk was honored in 2007 at the Embassy of Ukraine where he was additionally honored by the Government of Ukraine (Video 2007-40) and then in 2009 in a memorial service (Video 2009-10).

TWG did not neglect fostering political involvement in the younger generation. It sponsored internships to the Embassy of Ukraine. In 2005 Marta Matselioukh, a Graduate Student at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service was selected. In 2006 Bohdan Bondarenko, a student at the Berlin School of Economics was selected. The 2008-2009 Intern was Tatyana Podobinska who was pursuing a Master’s Degree in Leipzig was selected.

At the conclusion, I would like to thank members of my Board of Directors whose advice and hard work were critical to TWG’s success: Arthur Belendiuk, Jurij Mojsiak, Svitlana Kozyr, Marta Matselioukh, Olena Vashchenko, Marta Zielyk, Andriy Hodovanets, Andrew Bihun, Ihor O.E. Kotlarchuk, Andriy Blokhin.