

# ОБІЖНИК - NEWSLETTER

ТОВАРИСТВО УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ІНЖЕНЕРІВ АМЕРИКИ – НЬО ЙОРК  
UKRAINIAN ENGINEERS' SOCIETY OF AMERICA – NEW YORK BRANCH



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## From the President's Desk

First off, I'd like to apologize for the fact that this issue of the newsletter is being mailed a few weeks late. This was done intentionally in order to cover the results of the New York City chapter elections and general meeting that took place on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Next I would like to bring a few administrative issues to our member's attention. The national Board of Directors is currently in the process of collecting dues for 2002. To date approximately a third of the New York City chapter has responded to the initial dues mailing.

Towards the end of the month of April, the national Board will mail a "**second notice**" to all members that have not responded to the initial notice. If you receive the second notice even though you have already paid your 2002 dues, then please either contact me directly or send a note indicating that you have paid to the national treasurer. It is very important that you respond to an erroneous dues notice because the fact that it was mailed indicates that the national Board, for whatever reason, does not have a record of your payment. Since non-payment of dues will lead to the suspension of membership privileges, it is advisable to correct any errors as soon as possible.

A "**third and final notice**" will eventually be issued to members who have still not responded by that point. If the dues payment is not received by the date indicated on that third notice, then all member services, such as local and national newsletters, will be suspended. A member can "reactivate" his membership at any time.

The next issue was touched on at the New York City Election Meeting. The cost per member to cover expenses related to projects such as producing and

mailing this bi-monthly newsletter, rent for the New York City Domivka, notices for events, administrative mailing, etc. exceeds the local chapter's share of UESA's \$35 annual dues. A mere \$14 is received by the New York City Chapter for each professional member and \$8 for each retired member.

In order for the New York City Chapter to continue producing newsletters and to move forward towards providing expanded services in the forms of lectures and meetings, dues will need to increase. Based on a preliminary review of real per member expenses, the local chapter share of the dues for working members will need to rise to between \$25 and \$30. The chapter's new Board of Director's will study the required operating expenses further to minimize the increase.

Next, the UESA Membership Directory is currently in the process of being produced. We'll do the best we can with the information we have on hand, but eventually, we hope to follow the format used by most other professional directories which include a member's business contact information. The most commonly requested item from members is "improvement of internetworking among members." The more refined our membership database becomes, the better tools we'll be able to provide for our members.

Finally, as is noted in the article on the New York City elections, the Chapter plans to organize several lectures, professional meetings and social events in the coming year. If you would like to be a speaker at a lecture, have an idea for an event of lecture, or would like to assist in the planning and organizing of an event such as the annual Fall Zabava or Yalynka, then please contact me.

Until next time.....

*Marco Shmerykowsky, PE*  
*Марко Шмерюковський*

## New York City Chapter Holds Elections

On April 14, 2003, the New York City Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America elected a new Board of Directors for the 2003 to 2005 term.



**Attendees at a meeting with the new Board of Directors of the New York City Chapter.**

The new Board of Directors represents a wide range of experience, professional involvement and community service. The new Board members, in alphabetical order, are:

- **Adrian Berezowsky** - Mr. Berezowsky is in his final year of studies at the Cooper Union school of architecture and has begun his graduate studies at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law.
- **Ivan Durbak** - Mr. Durbak is currently the chief information officer for SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. He has a bachelor's degree in Physics (1971), a master's degree in civil engineering (1974) and a master's degree in Management Science (1976) from the University of Miami.
- **Tymish Hankewycz** – Mr. Hankewycz is a senior engineering consultant at Desktop Engineering International, Inc. of New Jersey and has both a bachelor's (1988) and a master's degree (1989) in engineering from the Cooper Union School of Engineering.
- **Wasył Kinach, PE** – Mr. Kinach works for the New York City Office of the Comptroller as an administrative engineer. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of New York.
- **Marco Shmerykowsky, PE** – Mr. Shmerykowsky has been elected as president of the Chapter. He is a principal of Shmerykowsky Consulting Engineers in New

York City. He has a bachelor's degree (1992) and a master's degree (1993) in engineering from the Cooper Union School of Engineering.

The chapter's members also elected Wolodymyr Hnatkowsky and Wolodymyr Magun to the Supervisory committee and Ivan Mokriwskyj and Leonid Pachaluk to the Judiciary Committee.

Once the new Board was officially sworn into office, the newly elected president reviewed the preliminary plan of action for the coming year. The plan of action includes an expanded event schedule, the continued improvement of organizational communication and a membership drive.

The increased event schedule will cover both social and technical events. The chapter hopes to hold monthly lectures on various current topics which will be interesting for current members and potential new members. It was additionally discussed that the Chapter should consider holding lectures in cooperation with other organizations, both professional American organizations and other Ukrainian organizations.

The social calendar will include the annual Fall Zabava and Yalynka, which are tentatively scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup> respectively. It was noted that the chapter is actively communicating with representatives of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) to ensure that the two organizations do not schedule their annual holiday parties on the same date.

Additional social events include an expanded Summer Picnic / Tovarska Zustrich and a spring time black-tie Dinner/Dance which would be held for the purpose of raising funds for UESA's national "Computers for Ukraine" program.

The chapter also reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its efforts to communicate with UESA members on both the national and local levels. The local newsletter will continue to be issued on a bi-monthly basis and the chapter will contribute information to the national newsletter and web site.

The members attending the meeting also discussed several options for increasing its membership. It was noted that it is vitally important for the organization to attract new younger members into its ranks since these members will be UESA's future leaders. Since New York City is home to several large schools such as Cooper Union, Columbia University, and New York University, it was decided that concentrated

effort should be made to reach these students to encourage them to join. Further, it was suggested that the Board should hold "focus group" discussions with the students to determine what benefits would attract them into the membership.



**Attendees at a meeting with the new Board of Directors of the New York City Chapter.**

It was noted that the most commonly identified "benefit" for students and young professionals centered on the concept of networking. Student want to have opportunities to gain valuable real world experience from internship opportunities. Further, both students and working professionals can benefit from the business connections and leads that can be offered by fellow members. It was noted that UESA members have reached prominent positions in organizations such as NASA, IBM and the National Science Foundation.

Another large segment of the meeting was devoted to the topic of the chapter's budget. It was noted that the chapter's share of the \$35 membership dues barely covers the basic expenses associated with the domivka and the production of the newsletter. It was agreed that the dues were unrealistically low and that this would need to be addressed.

A portion of the budget discussion touched on the concept of advertising and what is the best application of UESA's advertising dollars. UESA traditionally advertises in the Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. Each paper has a subscription base of approximately 7,000 subscribers. The number of actual readers is larger due to several individuals typically having access to a single "subscription" copy.

The data presented by Dr. Oleh Wolowyna at the 2003 Summit of Ukrainian-American organizations indicated that there roughly 893,000 self-declared Ukrainians in the United States. Of this group only roughly 15% speak Ukrainian. When one compares

the readership of the chapter's traditional advertising media with the potential audience, it becomes apparent that only a small percentage of the potential audience is being reached. Consequently, the NYC chapter together with the National Board must look to increase the number of people it reaches through advertising.

The meeting concluded after over two hours of energetic discussion with confidence that the chapter is on the right track to revitalizing itself.

### **Former President and Member of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America Ordained as Priest**

By Slavko Kryshtalsky

On March 8, 2003 George Bazylevsky, after many years of spending his professional life as an engineer, our colleague and friend, began a new journey serving God as a pastor. In choosing this new calling, Father George follows in the footsteps of his father, who also chose priesthood in his later years, and his grandfather.

The process began some time in 2002 in Saint Sophia's Seminary in South Bound Brook, New Jersey. On February 12, 2003, he was ordained as Deacon in Saint Sophia's Seminary Chapel of the Three Hierarchs in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

One month later on March 8, 2003, in the presence of several Priests and Deacons he took his final vows and was ordained as Priest by Archbishop Antonij in All Saints Church in New York City.

The liturgy was attended by his family, friends, colleagues from UESA and work as well as by many of his former classmates and other students from Salzburg gymnasium. By the amount of the attendees - the church was packed with standing room only - one can surmise that this Shepherd will have a following in his new endeavor.

**\$\$\$**  
***Have you paid your 2002 membership dues?***  
**\$\$\$**

Following the Liturgy everyone was invited by the Bazylevsky and McMeekin families for the "Agape-Luncheon" in the Church Hall to honor and congratulate "young Father George."

We all wish Father George and his lovely wife Oksana many healthy years in his new vocation. "MNOHAYA LITA"

### **2003 Summit of Ukrainian-American Organizations held at Soyuzivka**

During the weekend of March 29<sup>th</sup>, the second Summit of Ukrainian-American organizations was held at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, New York. The purpose of this year's Summit was to examine the demographics and communication within the Ukrainian-American community.

The summit began with an informal cocktail reception on Friday night. The next day, Andrij Wowk, national president of the UESA, greeted Summit attendees and reviewed the highlights of the ideas which were raised during last year's Summit.



**UESA National President Andrij Wowk presents the opening address and reviews the highlights the 2002 Summit**

Upon conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Wowk introduced the key note speaker, Dr. Oleh Wolowyna of Informed Decisions, Inc. Dr. Wolowyna is a specialist in the field of demographics and has been analyzing United States census data from 1970 through 2000.

According to the US. Census data, there are approximately 893,000 self-declared Ukrainians living in the United States. Of this number, only 12 to 14% speak Ukrainian at home.

Dr. Wolowyna noted that it was important to realize that the identification of a person as "Ukrainian" was

solely dependent on the individuals filing out the Census forms. Since these people are "self-declared" it shows that they have at least some understanding of their ethnic background. He also noted that members of our community tend to be better off financially and have achieved a higher level of education than the average American.



**Attendees of the 2003 Summit during Dr. Oleh Wolowyna's presentation on the Demographics of the Ukrainian-American Community**

As Dr. Wolowyna's presentation continued it began to become clear that many of the leading Ukrainian-American organizations are creating a situation which may be alienating a large potential audience thru their reliance on the use of the Ukrainian language in organizational activities. In general, our community leaders do not understand the factual data about our community and instead operate on the basis of what they "assume" is the reality. It was commented that some people still cling to the phrase "I know better" even when confronted with the hard data.



**Summit attendees during a Question & Answer Session**

It was also observed at the Summit by a recent immigrant from Ukraine that the stigma present in some organizations associated with not speaking Ukrainian extends beyond the "English only"

Ukrainians. In many case, immigrants from Ukraine are as comfortable speaking Russian as people in the United States are speaking English. In either case, the organizations are missing a tremendous potential audience.

One of the interesting statistics that was displayed by Dr. Wolowyna showed there are approximately 12,000 self-declared Ukrainians in the United States who were employed in the engineering and architecture professions. Of this number only 15% or 1,813 speak Ukrainian.



**Dr. Oleh Wolowyna addresses the attendees of the 2003 Summit of Ukrainian-American Organizations.**

Currently, the national membership of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America hovers around 600 people. Since the majority of UESA's communication (i.e. bulletins, journals, general correspondence) over the years has taken place in Ukrainian, it is reasonable to assume that we have drawn our membership from a potential group of 1,813 people. This is an impressive 33%. If UESA could translate this same percentage to the other 10,000 Ukrainian engineers and architects in our community we could increase our membership to nearly 4,000. As Dr. Wolowyna continued to emphasize through several examples, the potential is there.

Dr. Wolowyna also touched on the effect which the recent immigration from post-Soviet Ukraine is having on our community's demographics. He noted that it is important to understand that the current immigration is primarily an economic one and not a political one. Consequently, the new immigrant tend to be more focused on establishing themselves financially within the United States rather than maintaining a strong cultural identity. This contrast the post World War II immigration which felt the need to maintain Ukrainian culture in the face of the destructive forces of the Soviet Regime. Further, it was noted that the current immigration is much larger

than the post World War II immigration.

Finally, one of the more controversial ideas which was raised during the question and answer session following Dr. Wolowyna's presentation was the concept that members of our community should begin to behave as "American-Ukrainians" rather than "Ukrainian-Americans."

The reality is that the post World War II immigration and their descendants are here to stay in the United States and are unlikely to return to Ukraine as permanent residents. Consequently, our community members should take their rightful place within American life. We should have "self-declared" Ukrainians representing our community's interests in the local, state, and national governments. We should gain access to our "fair share" of federal and state funding which is available for various projects. In order to do this, we must focus on building the strength of our community where we live and not elsewhere.

Finally, Dr. Wolowyna also noted that current geographic distribution of the community is also changing. We are no longer strictly concentrated to a few large metropolitan areas such as New York City or Chicago. Instead, people are settling according to economic opportunities. This has lead to new states, such as Washington state, seeing an increase in the numbers of Ukrainians.



**(L to R) New York City President Marco Shmerykowsky, PE, National President Andrij Wowk, and New Jersey Chapter President Matthey Rakowsky**

The remainder of the Summit consisted of a discussion with media representatives from Kontakt, the Brama web site, Svoboda, the Ukrainian Weekly, and Nash HoloS about the services they can provide the community

The Summit concluded on Sunday with a review of the issues raised during the 2002 and 2003 Summits and the possibility of holding future Summits.

## BOARD MEMBERS NEW YORK:

<i>President:</i>	Marco Shmerykowsky, PE
<i>Board Member:</i>	Tymish Hankewycz
<i>Board Member:</i>	Wasył Kinach, PE
<i>Board Member:</i>	Ivan Durbak
<i>Board Member:</i>	Adrian Berezowsky



## *Keep Us Informed!!!*

Please send news items, articles, information about our members and other interesting information to the following address:

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