

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

As many of you are aware, the New York City Chapter has spent a large portion of the past year updating its records to ensure we have correct mailing addresses. In the course of this work, many members have inquired about the collection of membership dues. Common questions include "how much do I owe?," "when is the payment due?" and "I haven't paid in a while – what do I have to do?"

In an effort to address these questions in a timely manner, the New York City chapter has agreed to participate in a "Dues Centralization Program" being developed by the National Board of Directors. The general purpose of the program is to create a consistent record keeping system that will allow both the national and local administrative organs to function with a common set of member data. The need for this has become more important as our Ukrainian-American community has moved to a more decentralized existence where we are no longer necessarily concentrated in a few major cities.

In short, the National Board will mail the first dues notices to members prior to the end of the year. These notices will indicate how much is due, provide members with the opportunity to make donations to various funds, and will allow members to update their work status and contact information. The payments should be mailed **directly** to the National Headquarters and not to the local chapter. The National Board will then return a portion of the funds collected, as currently defined by UESA's by-laws, to the Local Chapter.

To account for the possibility that the "first notice" may not be delivered due to unforeseen circumstances, the Board will also mail second and third notices to members that do not respond to the initial mailing. Should a member not respond to the

*Товариство бажає всім
Веселих Свят
і*

Щастливого Нового Року

*We would like to wish all of our members
a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

third notice, their membership status will be changed to "inactive" and they will stop receiving UESA mailing. These members can "re-activate" their membership at any time by contacting either the Local or National Boards.

I would also like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of member feedback. Over the past year, the New York chapter has attempted to plan a mix of both social and technical events. Some, such as the annual Yalynka, are well attended while others are not.

For example, this past summer's "Tovarska Zustrich" or "Get Together" was attended by approximately a dozen members even though the New York and New Jersey Chapters mailed nearly 300 invitations.

The annual Fall Zabava In New York City is another example. The NYC Chapter mailed invitations to all New York City, New Jersey, and Philadelphia Chapter members. Although the event itself was successful, of the nearly 300 invitations sent directly to UESA members, only about a dozen attended.

Although it can be expected that a certain percentage of likely potential attendees may be unable to attend due to personal scheduling conflicts, the statistics seem to indicate that there are other factors at work.

If only 4% of 300 invited members find a given event captures their interest, then it would seem to indicate that there is a misdirection of efforts.

The ultimate issue, however, is that the leadership of any UESA chapter cannot hope to anticipate the desires of the members it is supposed to serve without constructive feedback.

Please send us your feedback on events which you have attended in the past or which you would like to see organized, in English or Ukrainian, via phone, fax, e-mail, or letter so that we can learn what the membership wants.

Ultimately, UESA is nothing more than a collection of like-minded people. The organization exists to unite these people within some set of common, ever changing goals. Please provide your feedback so that we may continue achieving our collective goals for many years to come.

Until next time.....

Marcus Shmerykowsky, PE

Марко Шмєрєковський

2002 Plenary Meeting

The 2002 Plenary Meeting of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America took place on Saturday, October 5, 2002 at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover, New Jersey. In addition to the attendance of members and officers from the New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia chapters, the organizers provided the opportunity for members from more distant chapters such as Detroit and Washington DC to participate via a teleconference link.

The meeting began with greetings being extended on behalf of UESA's National Executive Board of Directors by National President Andriy Wowk.

The first report, which was presented by President Wowk, reviewed the Executive Board's accomplishments during the calendar year from October 2001 to October 2002 and the Executive Board's the plan of action for the continued revitalization of the Society.



Attendees at the 2002 Plenary Meeting including Board Members from the New Jersey, New York City, and Philadelphia Chapters.

During the previous year, the Executive Board has enacted various initiatives designed to expand the Societies membership base and its ability to communicate with both the membership and the Ukrainian-American Community.

In order to address the issue of membership, the Board has been moving forward with plans to implement the proposals for officially expanding the membership to include students and associate members. It was noted that although student membership has always been available as per the Society's by-laws, it has been in the capacity of student chapters that were to function as independent entities under the guidance of the local Chapters. Thus in order to encourage more involvement within the direct efforts of the Society and to account for the dispersed nature of the current Ukrainian-American community, it was decided to establish an official membership level which provides students with full membership rights. The only exception to these rights is that students would be unable to hold elected office until obtaining their first professional degree. At this point they would become professional or associate members.

The associate membership level was established to allow people who although supportive of UESA's mission have been unable to join UESA due to their lack of a technical degree. An example of such a person would be a building contractor who is responsible for the physical construction of a building and is required to interact with engineers on a daily basis. Thru his professional "association" with engineers the contractor could have an interest in an engineering organization's goals and other professionals working with the engineering fields.

It was noted that almost all professional American organizations have such a membership level for the

purpose of expanding the pool of people available for professional networking. After some discussion, it was decided that the Executive Board would need to follow thru with a program to effectively communicate who qualifies for an associate membership level.

Other membership based initiatives enacted by the Executive Board included the placement of downloadable membership forms on the Society's web site, continued contact with 4th wave and Ukrainian-American Students Clubs, and the institution of additional membership benefits such as Hertz rental car discount cards and a new national membership directory.

The issue of communication has been addressed thru the implementation of various media initiatives. Utilizing the strength of the Internet to allow for communication among people in distant locations, the Board has continued to develop the Society's web site and their e-mail discussion lists. The main e-mail discussion list has already extended past 100 members and the mailing list used to announce UESA sponsored events has neared 130 people. In order to include the portion of the membership which is not Internet enabled, the Executive Board has also commissioned the creation of a quarterly National newsletter.

The effort to use conventional media channels has lead to the creation of a new occasional column in the Ukrainian Weekly titled "Sci-Tech Briefing" which was designed to provide a forum where the public could be educated on the technical aspects of various important current events. President Wowk also noted that he was able to represent the Society on current event issues to the Voice of America radio program.

Mr. Oleh Holynskij, UESA's National Treasurer, presented a working budget for the 2003 fiscal year. The projected income was based on an estimate of likely "active" members. The percentage of practicing vs. retired members was based on the results of the 2001 UESA Membership Survey which indicated that approximately 65% of UESA members were retired.

The projected expenses include amounts for UESA's advertising budget, communication initiatives that include the National Newsletter and the National Membership Directory, administrative costs covering printing and mailing of various notices and information to the general membership, and other fixed costs.

It was noted that the current projected income would force the proposed budget to operate at a deficit. On

this basis, the Executive Board displayed a budget that was based on increased membership dues. This led to a spirited discussion on whether the dues should be raised.

Some members voiced their concerns that increased dues were inconsistent with the level of services that UESA provides. It was countered, however, that the current plan of action provides members with much the same benefits that other American professional organizations have. Such benefits include the publication of newsletter, the availability of a membership directory, access to Internet communication via a web site and e-mail lists and professional networking opportunities. Furthermore, it was noted that even with the proposed increased dues of \$50 per year for professional members and associate members, the amount would be far less than the several hundred dollars commanded by organizations such as American Society of Civil Engineers or the American Institute of Architects.

It was proposed to raise dues for retired members from the current \$20 per year to \$35 per year. The new student membership level would remain at \$15 per year.

Although the members present at the meeting had varying views on this issue, it was agreed that the dues should be adjusted so that the UESA can fund the basic projects required for the organization to function.

The presentation on the state of the Society's home on the Internet was presented by Marco Shmerykowsky, PE. In general, Mr. Shmerykowsky noted that over 7,500 unique visitors have entered the Society's web site since it's launch in the middle of 1998. Additionally, the site has been logging a steady increase of activity over the years as the content has expanded.

In addition to providing a consistent user interface throughout the site, the site is fully searchable thru the use of the Google search engine. The main areas of the web site include a "News" area which is continuously updated with local and national events, a current calendar highlighting National and local UESA's events, a large listing of links to other world wide web sites including professional American organizations, Ukrainian student clubs, and Ukrainian-American organizations, access to UESA's multiple e-mail discussion lists, access to UESA membership information and applications, access to downloadable copies of UESA local and national newsletters and a career center which provides job hunting help and open positions submitted by UESA

members.

Mr. Shmerykowsky also briefly reviewed the events that were being planned on the National Level. The Board has committed itself to organizing the 2003 Summit of Ukrainian-American Organizations to continue the discussions that were begun with the successful 2002 Summit. The Board would also like to hold an awards banquet in the spring that would recognize the hard work of long term UESA members and would award scholarships. It was discussed to make this event a multi day affair by combining it with the 2003 national board elections. It was noted that the society's by-laws call for elections to be held in the spring and that the fact that the previous elections were held in the Fall was an anomaly driven by unavoidable circumstances.

The New York City Chapter president, Marco Shmerykowsky, PE, presented an overview of the chapter's current status. During the past year, the chapter added 8 new members to their roles to bring its total membership to approximately 80 members. It is actively conducting a continuing membership campaign to recruit new professional and student members. This effort has already resulted in four new student members from Columbia University and the Cooper Union. The Chapter continues to publish its bimonthly newsletter and strives to hold various social and technical events. During the past year, the NYC chapter held a summer picnic / tovarska zustrich, the annual Fall Zabava in New York City and the annual New York City Yalynka.

The Secretary of the New Jersey chapter, Oleh Holynskij, presented an overview of the status of the New Jersey chapter. Currently, the chapter has approximately 109 members and has added 6 new members in the past year. It is actively trying to recruit new student members from Rutgers University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology, It has also participated in the organizing of local events such as the Summer Picnic at Soyuzivka and the NYC Fall Zabava.

The Philadelphia Chapter president, Metodij Boretsky, presented an overview of the status of the Philadelphia chapter. The chapter held elections for all local board positions this past June. The chapter currently has approximately 80 members of which 10% are from what is being referred to as the "4th Wave Immigration." The chapter has regular monthly meetings at its headquarters at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Jenkinstown, Pennsylvania. The chapter's key events include the organization of the annual Engineers' Ball with presentation of Debutantes, the annual Yalynka, an annual summer picnic, and

various lectures. The chapter also has a program in place for the collection of book which are sent to Ukrainian educational institutions. The chapter has already shipped over 30 boxes of books. The chapter also publishes a monthly newsletter.

Brief reports were also provided by members from the Detroit and Washington DC chapters. It was noted that in addition to holding annual events such as a Summer Picnic and Christmas party, the Detroit Chapter is planning on holding an Engineers' Ball with the presentation of debutantes in early 2003.

In general, all participants supported the progress which UESA has made over the past year. The meeting was a success.

2002 Fall Zabava in New York City

The annual *Fall Zabava in New York City* took place back on Saturday, October 19, 2002 at the elegant home of the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City.



Attendees of the Annual *Fall Zabava in New York City*

Over 100 guests coming from as far away as Arizona attended this annual zabava in the heart of New York City. In addition to members from the New York and New Jersey Chapters of UESA and the New York Metro Chapter of Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, the zabava attracted a rather pleasant mix of youth, "experience," American born Ukrainians, and 4th wave Ukrainians. Ultimately, it showed that even though we all tend to work in different circles, we are still part of the same community.



UESA members & friends enjoying the evening

The evening's entertainment was provided by the young members of the orchestra "Chornozem" which has entertained people at Verkhovyna and Soyuzivka this past summer.



"Chornozem" entertaining the evening's guests

Guests were able to enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and drinks while dancing to the early hours of the morning. Additionally, the attendees were treated to a traditional "kolomejka" by some young members of the well known Syzokryli Dance Ensemble of New York.

It appears that the general consensus from those that were able to attend this year's event was that the zabava provided for a enjoyable social evening and that they are looking forward to next year's event.

The event was sponsored jointly by the New York & New Jersey chapters of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA), the Metro New York chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA).



Members of the "Syzokryli" Dance Ensemble



Guests watching the traditional "Kolomejka"

The members of the Fall Zabava Organization Committee where Mathew Rakowsky (UESA-NJ), Marco Shmerykowsky PE (UESA-NY) and Lesia Kushnir, MD (UMANA-NYC Metro).

News Items

- The annual **"New York City Yalynka"** is scheduled to be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City at 2 East 79th Street on Saturday, December 14, 2002 starting at 7:00pm.

Admission is \$35 for adults and \$25 for students and seniors. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Entertainment will be provided.

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the planned Seminar on "Bio-Terrorism" needs to be rescheduled. Once details are finalized, members will be notified

BOARD MEMBERS NEW YORK:

<i>President:</i>	Marco Shmerykowsky
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Tymish Hankevych
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Myrosia Dragan



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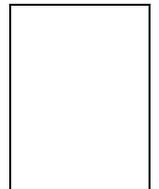
Please send news items, articles, information about our members and other interesting information to the following address:

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