



In mid-March, Open World sponsored exchanges in **Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, and Georgia** for regional legislators (deputies) and legislative staff from across **Ukraine**. Their U.S. visit began on Capitol Hill on March 10 with briefings and discussions covering the **U.S. Congress**, American-style federalism, government efficiency, and the functions of think tanks. The Ukrainian delegations' local programs all looked at the legislative process and the role of a state legislature, as well as specific issues of interest to delegates' constituents. The delegates in turn shared insights into Ukrainian current affairs and culture during formal and informal talks at such venues as Scottsdale, AZ's main public library and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



ARKANSAS



U.S. Rep. **Tim Griffin** (left photo, with striped tie) and Arkansas Secretary of State **Mark Martin** (right photo, holding Ukrainian flag) discussed a range of issues with five legislators representing Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, and Volyn Regions. Rep. Griffin, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, focused mainly on foreign policy and the federal budget; Secretary Martin answered questions about his duties, which include serving on the panel redistricting state legislative seats this year. The Ukrainians also reviewed legislative procedure with former state Rep. **Randy Thurman** and learned about the work of the state legislature's Bureau of Legislative Research. Local Host Organization: Arkansas Council for International Visitors

COLORADO

Economic development was an important focus for three regional deputies and two regional legislative aides hosted in Golden. State Rep. **Max Tyler** briefed them on his legislative work to assist small businesses, the Denver office of the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration** reviewed its federal investment programs, and the director of the Arvada Economic Development Association provided a municipal perspective on promoting business development. A walking tour of Olde Towne Arvada allowed the

Ukrainians to see firsthand how the Arvada Urban Renewal Authority and a nonprofit association of local businesses partnered to revitalize Arvada's historic business district. The delegates also asked for and received Golden budget information to take back to Ukraine. Legislative procedure was another focus of the visit: U.S. Rep. **Ed Perlmutter** described in detail how two congressional bills had made their way through the legislative process, and the delegation observed the state House in session. Local Host Organization: Rotary Club of Golden



U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (center) meets with the Ukrainian legislative delegation that visited Colorado in March. The delegates came from Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and Sumy Regions.



GEORGIA

State Rep. **Tom Taylor** served as legislative host for five regional deputies from Poltova, Rivne, and Vinnitsa who visited Atlanta. Accompanied by Rep. Taylor, the Ukrainians met with Gov. **Nathan Deal**, and with Georgia House Speaker **David Ralston** and other state legislators. Observing and job shadowing their Georgia counterparts during floor proceedings permitted the Ukrainians to experience the state legislative process directly. Meetings with DeKalb County officials, Atlanta Councilman **Kwanza Hall**, and Dunwoody city officials introduced the delegates to the operations of county, urban, and suburban governments. Since returning to Ukraine, the deputies have shared their new understanding of American democratic institutions and values with their colleagues and, through the media, the general public. Local Host Organization: Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta



A Rivne regional deputy (right) job shadows Georgia House Majority Whip Edward Lindsey during the March 2011 Atlanta exchange.

ARIZONA



Three regional legislators and two regional legislative staffers from Volyn, Odessa, Ternopil, and Crimea experienced Arizona grassroots politics by attending Democratic Party and Tea Party meetings in Mesa. State-level lawmaking was discussed in Phoenix with state House Minority Leader **Chad Campbell** and Assistant Minority Leader **Steve Farley**. A roundtable in Scottsdale with Mayor **Jim Lane** (top photo, third from left) and Councilman **Ron McCullagh** focused on city-county cooperation, economic development, and tax

policy. The delegates also wanted to explore tourism promotion—and a workshop at the state tourism office filled the bill. Another highlight was discussing community problem-solving at the Valley Interfaith Project (also pictured). Q&A sessions throughout the week with former U.S. Rep. **Harry Mitchell** allowed the Ukrainians to gain additional information on all that they had experienced. Local Host Organization: People to People International Greater Phoenix, Arizona Chapter



CALIFORNIA

A regional deputy from Rivne and three legislative staffers and an economic development official from Khmelnytsky Region visited Modesto (the sister city of Khmelnytsky Region's capital) and Sacramento. In the state capitol, the Ukrainians met with state legislators, observed legislative proceedings, and held talks with aides to the **State Assembly's Committee on Local Government** and other legislative staff. Local government was a primary theme of the Modesto portion of the visit. On March 17, Stanislaus County Board of

Supervisors Chair (and former state senator) **Dick Monteith** led an informative roundtable on this subject, with the county CEO and Modesto's vice mayor and city manager joining in. Sessions with other Modesto city officials covered operations ranging from traffic-light management to building-code enforcement. Other highlights included a visit to U.S. Rep. **Dennis Cardoza's** district office and Q&A with Stanislaus County's chief operations officer. Local Host Organization: Modesto Sister Cities International



State Sen. Anthony Cannella (at front) introduces Ukrainian Open World delegates on the floor of the California State Senate on March 14.