



Brian Bonner

Executive Director/Chief Editor

Kyiv Post

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:

Brian Bonner became chief editor of the Kyiv Post on June 9, 2008. He also took on the role of executive director on March 21, 2018, following the purchase of the newspaper by Odesa-based businessman [Adnan Kivan](#), owner of the KADORR Group based in Odesa, Ukraine. Bonner also held the chief editor's job in 1999, three years after first arriving in Ukraine on a journalism exchange program. He spent most of his career with the [St. Paul Pioneer Press](#) in Minnesota, where he covered international, national, and local news for more than 20 years as a staff writer, foreign correspondent, and assigning editor. Besides Ukraine, he has also reported from Russia, Belgium, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos, Norway, Poland, and the United Kingdom. In 2007-2008, he served as associate director of international communications at the [Campaign For Tobacco-Free Kids](#) in Washington, D.C. He also worked as an election expert on six observation missions with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's [ODIHR](#) in Ukraine, Belarus,

Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan between 1999 and 2013. In 2019, he was elected to a one-year term as a member of the [American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine](#)'s board of directors. He has a B.A. degree in history from the [University of Minnesota](#) in Minneapolis, where he wrote and edited for the [Minnesota Daily](#), the student newspaper. He works from the Kyiv Post [headquarters](#) at 68 Zhylianska St. in the Holosiivsky District of the Ukrainian capital.

Why do you think membership in the American Chamber of Commerce is important for business operating in Ukraine?

Ukraine needs this organization to help it overcome the lingering handicaps of centuries of isolation and state-run economies, which have left the nation in trying to catch up to European Union nations. If the Chamber of Commerce had stronger influence in the 1990s, Ukraine might not have missed the train to the EU. But rather than look back, we need to look ahead – and organizations like the chamber help focus the nation's leaders on what needs to be done and hold their feet to the fire of accountability.

What motivates you to be a Chamber Board Member?

It's a good organization, with which I've been familiar my entire life as an American. Moreover, I think the current leadership of the organization has chartered a much more ethical and a stronger course than previous leaders, allowing the chamber to regain its voice and credibility, badly damaged several years back. Obviously, one sign of wider recognition of the chamber's success came when the leadership won the AmChams in European Creative Network Award 2020. That's a clear sign of leadership adjusting quickly and creatively to crisis!

Why do you feel you are qualified to serve on the Chamber Board? What skills would you bring to the Board?

Anybody who has survived doing business in Ukraine for a long time is qualified. I've tried to contribute in promoting the chamber as a member for many years and as a board member for the last year. COVID-19 hampered our collective ability to network, meet and get things done. But still, we've had productive committee meetings of the tourism & hospitality and media group. I know we can do more, and as soon as the quarantine lifts, I hope we take advantage of the pent-up desire for personal interaction. The chamber has my support, regardless of whether I'm on the board, and it has the support of the Kyiv Pos, just as the newspaper has enjoyed the chamber's support of freedom of the press.

How have you been active in the Chamber over the course of the last two years?

The short answer: Never as much as I could or should have. But Andy Hunder has set the tone where board members are expected to be more than just passive participants at a monthly meeting, so that's good, but demanding given the voluntary nature of the position. Within the last two years, before COVID-19, I actively participated in almost all big chamber events and have been willing to voice my opinions at board meetings and to follow-up where action is required.

What activity or Committee would you participate in and be responsible for?

I enjoy my work with the two committees I am associated with: tourism & hospitality and media, both suffering today greatly, but also sectors that have a potential to contribute greatly to Ukraine's prosperity and democracy.
