



## **Minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting SACC Chicago**

February 18, 2010  
150 N. Michigan Ave, 28th floor  
Chicago, IL 60601

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Anna Engstrom 2/2</b> <b>Gordon Goranson 1/2</b> <b>Beata Krakus 2/2</b> <b>Gerd Sjogren 2/2</b> <b>Magnus Waller 1/2</b> <b>Mia Bergman 1/2</b>	<b>Kerstin Nicholson 2/2</b> <b>Mark Podemski 2/2</b> <b>Pelle Svensson 1/2</b> <b>Agneta Rosenberg* 2/2</b> <b>Claes Warnander 1/2</b> <b>Jonas Olsson*2/2</b>
<b>Absent</b>	<b>Annette Seaberg 1/2</b> <b>Rita Johnson 0/2</b> <b>Kevin Lampe 0/2</b>	<b>Thomas Thorelli* 1/2</b> <b>Charles Peterson**</b> <b>Kerstin Lane**</b>
<b>Non-voting</b>	<b>Jim Runnfeldt**</b>	
<b>Ex-officio</b>	<b>Pia Wennerth*</b> <b>Marcus Gustafson</b>	<b>Kerstin Brorsson</b>

\*by phone  
\*\*honorary

### ***Opening of Meeting***

***Mark Podemski, President***

Mark Podemski called the meeting to order at 5.45 pm. The abbreviated minutes from the Board Meeting January 21 were approved by a motion by Beata Krakus, seconded by Mia Bergman.

A presentation round for the benefit of the new board members was also conducted.

## ***2010 Perspective***

***Mark Podemski***

1. The membership numbers are a major problem. SACC Chicago needs a new Membership Committee Chairperson and Mark is working on that. Kerstin N mentioned a possible project to use the SACC J-1 Visa Program for recruitment. The Board was also asked to help with renewals – Pia will send out list.
2. The website has undergone renovation and is now operable by the Staff. Further improvements during 2010 are planned.
3. Pia Wennerth has given notice and the process to find a successor has to be started soon. Pia will stay on until this problem is solved. Several Board Members expressed regret about Pia's announcement after so many years of appreciated service.
4. The new year should be a time to balance business and social programs. Beata suggested identifying business programs that can be converted into annual events – such as taking advantage of the multiple trade shows in Chicago or annual co-sponsorship with the Embassy in Washington.
5. Programming could also be improved by cooperating with other SACC chapters.
6. Integration of YPC in programming should be a priority. Mia reported on the new SACC-USA initiative to spread the YPC program around the US – Mia being a member of the committee.
7. The new SACC-USA electronic (pay to be on) directory was also mentioned as well as SACC participation on LinkedIn and Facebook.

## ***Programs***

***Mark Podemski***

1. SACC Chicago is a co-sponsor for the Concert Benefit for Haiti at the Swedish American Museum February 26. It was decided to donate 2 tickets to the SACC Golf Outing to the Silent Auction.
2. No golf course or date has been selected yet for the Scandinavian Golf Outing. A committee to start working on this event is being formed.
3. Kerstin reported on the planned Health and Care event March 22, cosponsored by Swedish Covenant Hospital, featuring Claes Hammar from the Embassy of Sweden in Washington and Dr. Kelley of Swedish Covenant Hospital. "Save the Date" to go out last week of February.

4. A Wine Tasting Event was discussed and is already underway by YPC. An event like that could be held at the Office and combined with an Architectural Tour of downtown Chicago.
5. Mark reported about E-Days in Seattle May 6-8 which is timed with the Sweden Week there.
6. A networking event is planned for C-House, the restaurant owned by celebrity chef Markus Samuelsson, for May 20, 2010.
7. The Lucia Luncheon was briefly discussed. It will be held on December 3 at the Union League club in the main dining room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. It will be a magnificent setting for the Lucia luncheon. Long time SACC and Union League club member Solvig Robertson was able to secure the date for us. Pia and Solvig will work on all the details.
8. Mia accepted for YPC to chair the Crayfish Party again.

### ***Communications***

***Agneta Rosenberg***

Flash has been published according to schedule and material forwarded to Currents

The new and improved website will be announced. A presentation of the Board Members will be added and photos were taken after the Board Meeting. Instructions for a short bio of each member will be sent out.

### ***YPC***

***Mia Bergman***

Most of the YPC information was dealt with earlier in the meeting, but Mia added the following:

1. A wine tasting is already in the making for March 11.
2. Fado get-togethers continue on third Thursdays of the month after each Board Meeting and continue to be popular.
3. Golf outing lessons were introduced last year. Since they were so successful they will be repeated this year.
4. A Spring Brunch is planned with other entities.
5. YPC Facebook now has 150 members.

## *Finances*

*Magnus Waller*

1. The Fiscal Year 2009 ended with a loss of \$9,000, due to several revenue timing issues, a planned expenditure for updating the website and the reduction in membership. Fortunately SACC Chicago reserves cover that quite easily; however, it is very important for our Chamber to get back to a break-even financial condition.
2. Ideas to increase income, except for efforts to increase membership, include adding advertising to Flash and recruiting new sponsors.
3. The budget for 2010 is quite conservative, but there will be a loss again unless something changes. Efforts to find new offices to save money continue, including discussions with the Danes or the Swedish Trade Council will be pursued.

## *Other*

*Mark Podemski*

Mark closed the meeting at 7.10 p.m. **The next SACC Chicago Board meeting is moved to March 22 at Swedish Covenant Hospital** before the Event. A separate invitation to this meeting will be distributed.

At the Notepad  
February 25, 2010  
Kerstin Nicholson  
Secretary