



Minutes of the Annual Meeting SACC Chicago

January 21, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.
Swedish American Museum
5211 N. Clark
Chicago, IL

Board Members Present:

Tom Thorelli	Agneta Rosenberg
Mark Podemski	Gerd Sjögren
Kerstin Nicholson	Maria Bergman
Jonas Olsson	Beata Krakus
Annette Seaberg	

Charles Peterson (honorary) Kerstin Lane (honorary)

Pia Wennerth, Executive Director
(Interns)

Others: About 30 other SACC- Chicago Members

Opening of Meeting

Mark Podemski, President

Mark Podemski called the meeting to order and welcomed all participants. Our new interns were introduced and provided a brief overview of their background.

Secretary's Report

Kerstin Nicholson

The Minutes from the SACC Chicago Annual Meeting 2009 were included in the hand-outs. The Annual Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion from Beata Krakus, seconded by Tom Thorelli.

President's Report

Mark Podemski

The President gave us a report reviewing 2009 for SACC Chicago and looking forward to 2010. This report is summarized in the enclosed document "2009 President's Report"

Membership Report

Kerstin Nicholson/Pia Wennerth

Membership has declined during 2009 (to about 180), a situation we share with many other similar organizations in this difficult economy. Also, several corporate members have downgraded their memberships. It was noted, however, that we managed to recruit about 30 new members in 2009 helping to replace some of the decline.

Finance Report

Mark Podemski

In spite of the troublesome economy of 2009, the finances of SACC Chicago are in very good shape and closely matched our budgeted figures for the year when adjusted for some unforeseen timing issues. Our capital reserves remain solid. The Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for 2009 are enclosed.

Communications Report

Agneta Rosenberg

Agneta Rosenberg reported that our Flash newsletter had been electronically published on schedule during 2009 and contributions made to the national magazine Currents. The website has been renewed and improved as the big project for 2009, making it more flexible and easy to change. The revamping also includes a new payment system which works very well. As planned, Mia Bergman has set SACC Chicago up on Facebook.

Plans for 2010 include continuation of the website improvement and content development. Also discussed were ads for Flash and more information from SACC USA for our members and adding our communication vehicle, Flash to Facebook

Young Professionals Committee (YPC)

Jonas Olsson

YPC has had regular monthly meetings at Fados and several other programs during the year. YPC also arranged the Crayfish Party this year. The test of Sunday brunches did not work out well and will likely not be continued in 2010. Already 116 friends of YPC have signed up on Facebook. A full program is planned for 2010 including a Midsummer picnic and a Christmas dinner at Tre Kronor.

Nominating Report

Mark Podemski

Since no formal nominating committee was formed in 2008, Mark Podemski has worked informally with other Board Members to create a slate of Board candidates.

Renewed Board Members

Mark Podemski (Rockford Area Economic Development Council)

Thomas Thorelli (Thorelli & Associates)
Kerstin Nicholson (Nicholson Consulting)
Agneta Rosenberg (Interim Ventures)
Steven Handler (Michael Silver & Co.)*
Magnus Waller (CEJN - retired)
Rita Johnson (5/3rd Bank)
Maria Bergman (Ernst & Young)
Gordon Goranson (LMC)
Annette Seaberg (Merrill Lynch)
Pelle Svensson (ConnectBlue)
Gerd Sjögren (Interverbum)

New Board Members

Anna Engström
Claes Warnander
Kevin Lampe

Honorary Members:

Kerstin Lane (Consul General of Sweden)*
Charles Peterson (North Park University)*
Jim Runnfeldt*
* non-voting

The entire slate of candidates was unanimously voted in by a motion by Gordon Goranson, seconded by Annette Seaberg.

Report from SACC USA

Beata Krakus/Mark Podemski

Beata Krakus and Mark Podemski have both been active in SACC USA during 2009. Beata touched on the J1 Visa Program and the opportunities this program provides. She also reported on the work regarding the update of the SACC USA bylaws and some conflicts in clarifying how to use the SACC name (brand). Mark emphasized that SACC is much more than SACC Chicago and that we would benefit from thinking more regionally than locally. Tor Jensen urged SACC Chicago to put more effort into coordinating with additional Nordic chambers and work to plan more events in a combined fashion.

Closing of Meeting

Mark Podemski

Our President thanked the present departing Board Members, Oskar Berg and Jonas Olsson. The Annual Meeting was closed about 8:45 p.m.

At the Notepad
February 2, 2009,
Kerstin Nicholson