



The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce Chicago

2009 President's Report
January 21, 2010

A year in review...

In spite of a challenging economy, there were many events and professional and social activities for our members:

- The member's mini-trade show started us off in January 2009.
- Learning how to better utilize LinkedIn was the focus of our February seminar with Chris Rollyson
- March provided an opportunity to hone your elevator pitch with Eva Liljendahl
- April took us to Savannah for Entrepreneurial Days
- In May, we learned the economic benefits of pursuing Green Office approaches
- We got to know our new members and some of our old ones at an August reception hosted by our friendly Consul General for Sweden
- October was a very good month for a green home event at Ikea
- November helped our members better understand digital and social media at Slack Barshinger

Throw in a wide number of Young Professional events, hockey games, a brännball derby and traditional social events such as the Scandinavian Golf Outing, our fabulous Crayfish Party and the elegant Lucia luncheon and you have a busy year.

Challenges Remain Ahead of Us...

- Membership numbers are down in the corporate and business sectors
- Members continue to be challenged economically which places strains on our participation and funding

And Yet There Are Many Opportunities...

- An improving economic outlook
- Outreach in a broader region to increase the size and scope of our network in the Midwest
- Closer cooperation with other regional chambers to share best practices and help each other to provide worthwhile programming
- Chalmers University is looking for 60 summer internships in the summer of 2010
- The J-1 Visa program has tremendous potential for US companies
- E-Days in May in Seattle and in Göteborg in November



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- A new, much more flexible website for SACC Chicago enabling better dissemination of information and involvement in events
- Increased coordination and direction from SACC USA
- Access to other international chambers expands our network and opportunities
- There is strength in numbers...

The SACC Chicago Chamber is one of the earliest chambers within the entire SACC USA organization. Our organization is in excellent financial condition and yet we can not take this for granted. It is important we continue to strive to improve our regional chamber and expand our membership so that our valuable network continues to grow.

Please utilize the assets this chamber provides and re-dedicate your personal time to keeping the Swedish American Chamber one of the leading international trade organizations in the U.S. This organization thrives on the involvement of its dedicated members. Thank you to all that have supported this organization in 2009 and I look forward to your ongoing support in 2010.

Tack så mycket!

Mark P. Podemski
President – SACC Chicago