

MIDWEST DANISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Annual General Meeting April 28th, 2009
Minutes

Welcome by President Lars Christiansen:

Lars C thanked everybody for attending. Other thanks went to GKL and Mads Mikkelsen for providing MWDACC with office space at the Danish Consulate throughout the year. MWDACC appreciates that you all took the time to show up, because your input matters – to keep on strengthening the Danish-American community and network in the Midwest.

We would also like to thank, Fifth Third Bank, our host of the meeting, who so kindly let us use their board room facilities for our meeting. Further on, their senior portfolio manager, Thomas G. Rowen, gave us a very informative insight on the US economy and the effects of the stimulus package.

Presentation of the MWDACC's annual report by Kathrine M. Rasmussen

The financial statements showed a loss of \$ 3,343 for the fiscal year 2008. Most of the expenses are related to various types of startup costs and are not expected to reoccur in 2009.

In August 2009 the Consulate is relocating to the Hancock building and it will thereafter be necessary for the Chamber to pay rent for its office space. The Board have expects a profit for 2009. If we can maintain our current members the Chamber should breakeven, so we only need few additions per year to make it profitable.

Presentation of the MWDACC Calendar of Events by Kathrine M. Rasmussen:

KMR presented the upcoming events for 2009. Among others:

- Monthly *After Hours Network Mixers* as the previous one was a success,
- Scandinavian Golf Outing with the Danish Swedish Norwegian Chambers of Commerce.
- InSight presentations
- Midsummer gathering, Celebrating Skt. Hans.
- Soccer tournament
- Beer festival

Everybody is more than welcome to contact Kathrine M. Rasmussen with proposals for other events and happenings.

General Discussion:

There was agreement that it would be beneficial for the MWDACC to cooperate with the other Scandinavian chambers. As of today the Scandinavian Chambers have discussed giving each others members the same member benefits in the other chambers as well.

Other types of memberships were also discussed, e.g. senior membership and family memberships.

There was agreement that the MWDACC events should continue to be a combination of social and business events and that neither one could or should replace the other. Some of the members requested more business related events, and MWDACC will strive to do more of that.

We received a lot of feedback on how to attract new members and the Board will certainly take that in to consideration.

Further on we discussed opening a LinkedIn group and a Facebook group. LinkedIn will only be for paying members as it will be a tool to do business amongst the members of MWDACC. The Facebook group will be for all interested and will be used to spread the word of our existence and to promote our events etc.

We still need more members in the Chamber to obtain a healthy economy. A lot of initiatives have started to sign up more members and we also still need to focus on keeping the members we already have. The new membership types will hopefully attract more members.

It is still very new to a lot of companies that the MWDACC even exists and we need to actively do something to draw their attention to us.

Meeting closed.