



ChamberBrief - GACCoM's monthly e-Newsletter

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. (GACCoM)

April 2011 Issue

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Let GACCoM Take You Places This Spring

We are proud to be the first Chamber worldwide to take our guests on a tour of visionary projects realized by German architects and engineers around the globe. The "**German Architects and Engineers Worldwide**" exhibition is put on by the Network for Architecture Exchange (NAX) and supported by GACCoM. If you have missed our official opening reception in March but would like to come see the exhibit, please [contact us](#).

Just in time for spring, the **YEC Stammtisch** is also going some place new. We invite you to join us at the **Dana Hotel's Vertigo Sky Lounge** for the first time on Wednesday, April 20 - and there is even more exciting news: Stammtisch goes international! Network with (young) professionals from the French-American business community as this month's Stammtisch will be hosted together with the **French-American Chamber of Commerce**.

Then, of course, there is our annual spring highlight to look forward to, the **MERLIN Awards Gala** approaching fast on May 6. The number and quality of award applications and nominations you have submitted this year will be sure to cause the jury committee sleepless nights...

Thanks to all of you who have applied or nominated a company - we wish you the best of luck!

Your GACCoM - Team

Events In April

- **MI Chapter: SAE Reception 2011**
04/12/2011 Detroit, MI
- **YEC Monthly Stammtisch at a NEW LOCATION**
04/20/2011 Chicago, IL, Vertigo Sky Lounge

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Save The Date

- **MN Chapter: Annual Gala 2011**
05/05/2011 Minneapolis, MN
- **Annual MERLIN Awards Gala 2011**
05/06/2011 Chicago, IL
- **German American Energy Conference (GAE)**
05/12/2011 Berlin, Germany
- **Solar Thermal Business Delegation to Germany**
06/06 - 06/11/2011 Southern Germany
- **SolarEnergy Business Conference and Delegation**
06/27 - 07/01/2011 Denver, CO

New GACCoM Board Of Directors

We are happy to announce our newly elected Board of Directors and extend a warm welcome to three new members: Karl-Georg Mielke, CEO of **K+S North America Salt Holdings LLC**, Jürgen Reers, Managing Partner at **Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, LLC**, and Norbert Weichele, CEO of **Zentis Food Solutions North America LLC**. We would also like to thank our longstanding Board Members for their ongoing support and look forward to a successful year.

Please click [here](#) for our current Board of Directors with its Honorary Directors and Officers.

150 Year Anniversary Of The DIHK: Serving German Business since 1861



In March 2011, the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), umbrella organization of 80 Chamber locations in Germany and coordinator of the AHK network with 120 locations worldwide, celebrated its 150-year anniversary.

GACCoM Vice Chairman, Dr. Friedrich-Hans Grandin, and President & CEO, Simone Pohl, along with many of their counterparts from Chambers all around the world accepted the invitation to Berlin to take part in the festivities including a **speech by German President Christian Wulff**. The event that drew over 600 politicians, entrepreneurs and Chamber representatives was

preceded by one and a half days of discussions and networking, such as briefings of the AHK officials with German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle and Rainer Brüderle, Federal Minister for Economics and Technology. (**Federal Minister Brüderle on the work of the AHK network, in German**)

The DIHK was founded on May 13, 1861 in Heidelberg under the name of "Allgemeiner Deutscher Handelstag" and has since lent its voice to German business on the national, European and international level.

In an interview with German business newspaper Handelsblatt, DIHK Chairman Prof. Dr. Hans-Heinrich Driftmann speaks of change and continuity in the history of the organization and explains how continuous commitment to core values paired with open eyes and ears for the challenges of the moment will make the Chambers a reliable and valuable partner for businesses at home and abroad for centuries to come. (**read interview, in German**)

Intercultural Training

We here at GACCoM specialize in those areas where German business meets American business. When minimizing obstacles to success, the intercultural aspects of working in an international team can't be overlooked. GACCoM offers intercultural training for a wide variety of situations, based on our

years of experience working in Germany and the US. We most commonly train American executives who will be working in Germany, German executives already working in the US, and mixed groups of German and American employees, and fully customized programs are available as well.

For more information, please click [here](#) or contact Virginia Attaway Rounds, Director of Consulting Services, (312) 494-2163, rounds@gaccomm.org

Member Profile: Robert Bosch LLC



In 1886, Robert Bosch opened his "Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering" in Stuttgart, Germany. One hundred and twenty-five years later his dedication to finding technological solutions and promoting projects aimed at advancing work in sciences, healthcare, international relations and education remains key to the growth and success of the company as it celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

In the U.S., Canada and Mexico, the Bosch Group manufactures and markets automotive original equipment and aftermarket products, industrial drives and control technology, power tools, security and communication systems, packaging technology, thermotechnology, household appliances, solar energy and healthcare products. Having established a regional presence in 1906, Bosch employs over 20,000 associates in more than 70 locations, with reported sales of \$7.3 billion in fiscal 2009.

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. According to preliminary figures, some 283,500 associates generated sales of 47.3 billion euros (\$62.7 billion) in the areas of automotive and industrial technology, consumer goods, and building technology in fiscal 2010. The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its more than 300 subsidiaries and regional companies in over 60 countries. If its sales and service partners are included, then Bosch is represented in roughly 150 countries. This worldwide development, manufacturing, and sales network is the foundation for further growth. Bosch spent some four billion euros (\$5 billion) for research and development in 2010, and applied for over 3,800 patents worldwide. With all its products and services, Bosch enhances the quality of life by providing solutions which are both innovative and beneficial. For more information, visit www.boschusa.com, www.bosch-press.com, and www.125bosch.com.

GACCoM's Territory: State By State



German American
Chamber of Commerce
of the Midwest Inc.
Colorado Chapter

Germans have been prominent in Colorado history since the 1858 when gold attracted prospectors to Montana City on the banks of the South Platte River. That settlement lasted about a year and the community moved across the river to Auroria which later was renamed Denver in honor of James W. Denver, governor of the then Kansas Territory. Colorado's constitution was originally published in German, English and Spanish, and during the Colorado constitutional convention of 1876 it was stipulated that all laws passed in Colorado would be published in all three languages until 1900.

Today, about 20% of Colorado residents trace their ancestry to Germany; and an illegal immigrant from Barmen, Westphalia who arrived in Denver in 1872, Adolph Coors (FKA Adolph Kuhrs), still plays a prominent role in Colorado through Coors Brewing and his descendants who are visible players in conservative politics.

In recent years, Colorado's focus has been on renewables, ranking 4th in renewable energy and energy research employment in 2007 and home to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden. Bioscience and medical devices also play a significant role in the state's economy as does aerospace for which the state has been home to NASA's \$8.2 billion Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle program.

The Colorado Chapter of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. (GACC-CO) is thriving and its very active Board of Directors has set ambitious goals to further international business and cultural activities. Recently it has hosted Solar Energy and WindEnergy delegations from Germany, connecting them with potential partner Colorado businesses. The GACC-CO partners with other international chambers and the Denver World Trade Center for a variety of events including Euro-Networking gatherings every couple of months, Business Treffpunkt, etc. On the cultural side, the GACC-CO presents its annual Biergarten Festival each July and the Denver Christkindl Market running from Thanksgiving weekend through Christmas Eve. The GACC-CO Website has also become the go-to place for what's going on in Colorado that is of interest to the German community.

To learn more about the Colorado Chapter and its activities, please visit their newly re-designed website at www.GACCCO.org.

GACCoM On The Road



Simone Pohl with Christoph Petri (left) and Norbert Hennrich (right) of Weishaupt

Berlin wasn't the only destination last month. Before leaving for the DIHK festivities, Simone Pohl also paid a visit to longstanding GACCoM member [Weishaupt America Inc.](#) at their Elgin facility.

Also in Elgin, **GACCoM's HR Executive Circle** met for its first gathering of 2011. We were pleased to bring insight from local service provider HR Solutions International of Chicago, and a German guest speaker from the ESCP Europe business school in Berlin. The mix of perspectives made for a lively discussion and the group is looking forward to its next meeting in the second quarter.

Meanwhile, part of our team is on its way back from the Hannover Fair, where GACCoM was involved in a number of events. Archived video recordings from our Update on SmartGrid and eMobility in the United States are now available [here](#).

Last But Not Least...

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact our Director, Membership and Chamber Development, Jayne Riemer-Chishty, at riemer-chishty@gaccomm.org or call 312-494-2169. We value your opinion!

Please visit our [website](#) for more information and pictures from recent GACCoM events.

Best regards,
Your GACCoM Team

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