

SACC / Sweden Involvement

Gary has been involved with the Swedish culture since he was recruited by PartnerTech AB to manage its subsidiary in the USA. During his first years at PartnerTech he commuted between Atlanta, GA and Malmo, Sweden on a regular basis spending approximately 5 months per year in Sweden. He has come to know the culture as well as any visitor can and established personal family relationships with friends living in Lund, Helsingborg, and Trelleborg. These friendships have brought him to Sweden to participate in Holidays such as Mid-Summer and Lucia.

Joining the SACC Board of Directors was a natural way to give back to the community and support both the USA and Sweden. Overtime, he was elected to the role of Chairman. Some key accomplishments of the SACC GA organization during this time included:

- Raising funding to secure an Executive Director full time
 - A former SACC GA Intern
- Hosted the SACC GA Speaker Series with speakers such as Jacob Wallenberg, CEO Investor AB & Tomas Puusepp, CEO Elekta AB
- Hosted a visit by the Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafstrom to Atlanta GA to meet Governor Deal(R) and Mayor Reed (D)
- PartnerTech hosted Thomas Siebert, former Ambassador to Sweden under Bill Clinton (92 – 96) and Andreas von Uexkull, during their visit to Atlanta for Sweden Day, June 2014

Gary's aspirations for SACC USA started some time ago. He firmly believes that the united SACC organization is good for all. His personal goal is to work to find a way to engage the SACC Regional chambers in way that they work together for the greater benefit of all. Whether referring business contacts, sharing best practices, and supporting visitors when SACC members travel, he believes in the power of working together for the greater good.

One of the goals he had for SACC was to find a way to engage the large multinational Swedish companies operating here in the USA. He believed that this would be a win- win for those companies to be connected to SACC and help the SACC organization with some of its financial goals by increasing membership. To this end, Gary lobbied for an Executive Forum for Senior Executives of large companies. In May 2013, the first forum was put on at the House of Sweden and attended by Executives from both the USA and Sweden. This past May, the 2nd Forum was held in DC and was widely attended and considered a success by all – planning for 2015 is already underway.

Gary currently serves as chair-elect for SACC USA and Director of SACC – Georgia.