

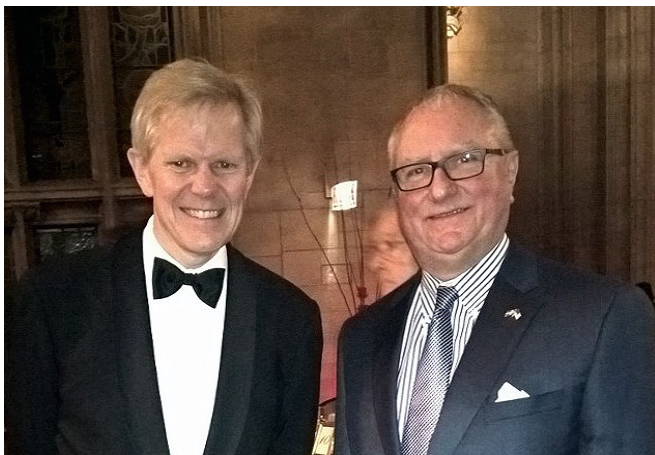
SWEDISH
COUNCIL
of America



Just what is the “council” in Swedish Council?

At its recent meeting in Chicago, Illinois, leaders from across North America gathered for the semi-annual Swedish Council of America meeting. They were there to network, learn, share and discuss what the trends, needs and plans are within Swedish organizations from Boston to San Francisco.

You might ask just who gets to sit on this council that addresses the issues and concerns of Swedish America? It’s a large group designed to represent the broad base of activities and perspectives in the community it serves.



From left: Ambassador Björn Lyrvall and SCA Executive Director Gregg White. Photo credit: Åsa-Lena Lööf

The Institutional Members of SCA have permanent representation at the table. It is usually the chief executive of the organization or their designate who participates. The Institutional members include the four major Swedish museums, the six Swedish heritage colleges and six other national or international Swedish organizations including Swedish-American Historical Society, SWEA International and Vasa Order of America. These are perhaps the largest and most influential groups in Swedish America.

The SCA board also includes up to 30 individuals elected for three-year terms. These dedicated folks are all members of local Swedish organizations with various interests. These can range from genealogical research groups to language instruction schools; from social clubs to religious denominations. It is their wide range of

experiences and perspectives that give the SCA its vitality and relevance as Swedish-America’s community foundation.

Also on the SCA board are several honorary members whose prominence in relations between Sweden and North America warrant their seats on the SCA board. For example, in Chicago, SCA was honored to have Ambassador Björn Lyrvall participate in portions of the weekend’s activities and at an earlier meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen helped make the event truly special.

Representation at SCA goes even broader. Every one of the 150 SCA Affiliate Member organizations is both entitled and encouraged to send designated representatives to each and every SCA meeting. They, too, can participate in the discussions and networking, voice the views of their organizations and suggest ways that SCA can even better serve the Swedish-North American community. Current SCA Affiliate Members may also nominate potential members of the SCA Board.

The council will meet in Philadelphia in May this year to discuss the complicated challenges and exciting successes happening across the international Swedish community. Together, the members of the council will focus on their mission of how SCA and its allied groups can best preserve Swedish heritage, promote understanding of Swedish culture and build stronger ties between Sweden and North America. They are, after all, **your** voice in Swedish America.

More information about SCA Meetings, board members, and all the activities of SCA can be found at:

www.swedishcouncil.org



From left: SCA Great Achievement Award Recipient Kerstin Lane and Swedish American Museum Executive Director Karen Moen Abercrombie. Photo credit: Kevin Proescholdt