



# ChamberBrief - GACCoM's monthly e-Newsletter

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

May 2011 Issue

## In This Issue

MERLIN Awards Gala

Impressions

Silent Auction Sponsors

Events In May

Save The Date

National Membership Directory

Refund Service

Global Village

Last But Not Least...

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Annual MERLIN Awards Gala

Thank you to our Magic Flute Sponsors

**BARNES &  
THORNBURG LLP**

**FRAGOMEN**

**K+S**

 **Lufthansa**

**Roland Berger**  
Strategy Consultants

**Rödl & Partner**

## Annual MERLIN Awards Gala



Last Friday, GACCoM presented its much-anticipated spring highlight, the MERLIN Awards Gala honoring outstanding achievements in transatlantic business with its annual awards ceremony. Over 250 distinguished guests of the German American Business Community attended the MERLIN Awards Gala to experience the Magic of Excellence in German American Business.

This elegant affair featured an extensive silent auction, delicious food and cocktails, a first class opera performance of the *Magic Flute*, and a magical dance performance.

Yet, the main highlight of the evening was the MERLIN Awards Ceremony honoring four notable companies in four awards categories:

- Best New Company 2011 - **K+S North America Salt Holdings LLC**,
- Best Innovator 2011 - **Bosch Software Innovations**,
- Best Service Provider 2011 - **Hegele Logistic LLC**,
- and new this year, Excellence in Training & Education 2011 - **Richard Wolf Medical Instruments Corporation**.

Once again, the quality of the numerous applications made it difficult for the independent jury to pick this year's MERLIN Awards Winners. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the winning companies.

GACCoM congratulates all **new and previous MERLIN Awards Winners** and is looking forward to many more award recipients in the years ahead.

Thank you to our Magic Bells Sponsors

THIEDMANN & EDLER  
ANDREA LUEHMANN, LTD.  
ACCOUNTING + TAX SERVICES

BK Blackman Kallick

BOSCH

EISENMANN

ERNST & YOUNG  
Quality In Everything We Do

FIFTH THIRD BANK

J.S. RICHTER, LTD.

K&L GATES

KOMET GROUP

WILO  
Pumpen Intelligenz

ZENTIS

Thank you to our Additional Sponsors

Fini Consult Inc.

The Crystal Cave

## Impressions



For more pictures, please visit our [gallery](#).

## Thank you to our 2011 Silent Auction Sponsors!

American Airlines +++ ASAP Limousine Group +++ Audi of America, Inc. +++ Barnes & Thornburg LLP +++ Berghoff Catering & Restaurant Group +++ Berndes Cookware, Inc. / Range Kleen Mfg., Inc. +++ blomus GmbH +++ Bodum USA Inc. +++ Bradford Renaissance Portraits +++ BSH Home Appliances +++ Business + Culture +++ Chicago Bears Football Club +++ Chicago History Museum +++ Chicago White Sox +++ Chicago Wolves +++ Coach USA / Chicago Trolley & Double Decker Co. +++ Concordia Language Villages +++ Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany +++ Dana Hotel & Spa +++ DANK Haus German American Cultural Center +++ Days Inn Chicago +++ Demeyere +++ Dethlefsen & Balk Inc. +++ Dinkel's Bakery +++ Entertainment Cruises +++ Espressi, Inc. +++ Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park +++ Felix Solicut GmbH +++ Fifth Third Bank +++ FINI Consult +++ Fissler USA +++ Four Seasons Hotel Chicago +++ Goebel Porzellanmanufaktur GmbH +++ Goethe-Institut Chicago +++ Hilton Garden Inn Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile +++ Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O'Hare +++ Holtkötter International Inc. +++ InterContinental Chicago +++ John G. Shedd Aquarium +++ Josef Schulte-Ufer KG +++ Kahla/Thüringen Porzellan GmbH +++ KinderCone, LLC +++ Kryolan Corp. +++ Küchenprofi USA +++ Leifheit International USA Inc. +++ Libbey Inc. +++ LM Restaurant +++ Lufthansa German Airlines +++ Melitta SystemService +++ Messermeister +++ Porsche Business Services +++ Reinhold F. Krammer, Attorney, Masuda Funai Eifert & Mitchell, Ltd. +++ Robert Bosch LLC +++ Rösle USA, Inc. +++ Rowenta, Groupe SEB USA +++ Salamander of Chicago +++ Starbelly Studios Photography +++ Staub +++ Storck USA, L.P. +++ Sylvia Becker-Hill +++ TeaGschwendner +++ The Blackstone +++ The ComedySportz Theatre +++ Waechtersbach USA, Inc. +++ WESCO - M. Westermann & Co. GmbH +++ WMF Americas Inc. +++ Woll Cookware +++ XL Insurance +++ Zentis Food Solutions North America LLC +++ Zwilling J.A. Henckels Japan

## Events In May

- **German American Energy Conference (GAE)**  
05/12 - 05/13/2011 Berlin, Germany
- **YEC Stammtisch at the Vertigo Sky Lounge**  
05/18/2011 Chicago, IL
- **TAP-YTL "Logistics & Transportation" Delegation**  
05/22 - 05/30/2011 Germany
- **Political and Business Delegation from Thuringia**  
05/24 - 05/26/2011 Michigan

## Save The Date

- **Solar Thermal Business Delegation to Germany**  
06/06 - 06/11/2011 Southern Germany
- **WI Chapter: 10-Year Anniversary Celebration**  
06/08/2011 Milwaukee, WI
- **Chicago Hamburg Business Forum 2011**  
06/23 - 06/24/2011 Chicago, IL
- **SolarEnergy Business Conference and Delegation**  
06/27 - 07/01/2011 Denver, CO

## Highlight your company in GACCoM's National Membership Directory

Now is the last chance to book your advertisement or Premium Profile in one of the most well-known advertising and reference channels of the German American Chambers of Commerce. Our nationwide annual Membership Directory allows for effective advertising and maximum exposure in the German-American business community.

To learn more about your advertisement opportunities, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

## Refund Service for German VAT

Recover up to 19% of your expenses in Germany!

The German American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. in New York, assists you in reclaiming the VAT (Value Added Tax) charged on business related expenses while on business in Germany. Did you know that the 19% Value Added Tax (VAT) on business related costs in Germany can be reclaimed by U.S. companies?

If you are interested in this service, please click [here](#) for more information or contact Ms. Susanne Gellert, German Attorney at Law, at (212) 974-8861 or [vatservices@gaccny.com](mailto:vatservices@gaccny.com)

## Global Village: The Transatlantic News Portal



Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI), the official German foreign trade and inward investment agency, and the German Chambers of Commerce in North America (USA and Canada) with a total of 10 locations have joined forces by launching a news portal [www.transatlantic-news.com](http://www.transatlantic-news.com).

This website aggregates news from a wide variety of different sources dealing with trade relations between Germany and North America. [www.transatlantic-news.com](http://www.transatlantic-news.com) will now offer direct access to insightful economic reports, trade publications, newsletters as well as data collected by the German Chambers in the US and Canada. Check out the latest industry news such as the [German American Renewable Energy Outlook survey results](#), which were presented today at the German American Energy Conference in Berlin. In addition, we would like to make you aware of the new "Exporthandbuch NAFTA" (available for [download](#) in German only), a publication by Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI) in cooperation with the German Chambers Abroad in Canada, Mexico and the USA.

## 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](mailto: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

**German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. - GACCoM**

321 North Clark Street, Suite 1425 | Chicago, Illinois 60654-4714

Tel.: (312) 644 2662 | Fax : (312) 644-0738

E-Mail: [info@gaccomm.org](mailto:info@gaccomm.org)

URL: [www.gaccomm.org](http://www.gaccomm.org) | [www.ahk-usa.de](http://www.ahk-usa.de) | [www.ahk.de](http://www.ahk.de)



FRAGOMEN



Lufthansa

Rödl & Partner

## ChamberBrief Sponsor

**BARNES &  
THORNBURG LLP**