



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

German American Chamber of Commerce
of the Midwest, Inc.
321 North Clark Street, Suite 1425
Chicago, Illinois 60654-4714
Phone: (312) 644-2662 | Fax: (312) 644-0738
www.gaccmidwest.org

Press Release

For immediate release

Press Contact:

Jasmin Welter

Senior Manager, Marketing & Communications

Tel.: (312) 494-2162 0738

E-Mail: welter@gaccmidwest.org

Dr. Walter Maisel of KOSTAL North America elected new Chairman of GACC Midwest

Chicago, IL, April 13, 2017 - The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACC Midwest) has elected Dr. Walter Maisel, President and CEO for KOSTAL North America, as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Dr. Maisel will take the helm of the leading organization promoting trade and investment between Germany and the American Midwest effective immediately. He has been Vice Chairman of GACC Midwest since 2008 and has been the Chairman and President of GACC Midwest's Michigan Chapter since 2013. Dr. Maisel takes over the office from W. David Braun, Partner at Quarles & Brady, who had served as Chairman since 2003.

Prior to KOSTAL North America, Dr. Maisel worked for Siemens and SiemensVDO for 14 years where he held senior leadership positions in both Germany and the US, and was responsible for many business growth and turnaround initiatives. From there, he moved to Magna International, a Canadian Tier 1 automotive supplier, where he formulated and implemented their electronics business strategy. In 2006, he joined the KOSTAL Group (a privately held global German automotive company employing 15,000 employees in 26 locations) as President/CEO for North America. Dr. Maisel has a background in electrical engineering, mathematics and physics and earned his Doctorate in computer science from the University of Karlsruhe. He holds dual German and US citizenships.

Dr. Maisel initiated many of GACC Midwest's skilled workforce development efforts, which led to the establishment of the MAT2 program in Michigan and more recently the ICATT apprenticeship program (www.thinkicatt.com). As its Chairman, the Michigan Chapter has seen a steady increase in membership and event participation. Additionally, Walter Maisel is a sought-after speaker for business events on both sides of the Atlantic.

Outgoing Chairman David Braun stated, "Dr. Maisel will serve with passion and dignity, and he will carry forward our Chamber's important focus on serving our members and stakeholders, particularly in supporting the German 'Mittelstand' companies that are the backbone of the German economy."

Member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of GACC Midwest's Finance Committee, Uwe Schoberth commented, "With Walter Maisel as the new Chairman, GACC Midwest gets a proven leader with the relevant insights and expertise into the German-American business community, which will be instrumental in managing the expansion and the effective engagement of our Chamber with its various key stakeholders."



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

German American Chamber of Commerce
of the Midwest, Inc.
321 North Clark Street, Suite 1425
Chicago, Illinois 60654-4714
Phone: (312) 644-2662 | Fax: (312) 644-0738
www.gaccmidwest.org

As GACC Midwest Wisconsin Chapter President, John Gatto commented, "I congratulate Dr. Maisel on his election to the GACC Midwest Chairmanship. We are very encouraged by his vision of growth of the Chamber through increased strategic influence and expansion of all GACC Midwest Chapters."

Mark Tomkins, President & CEO of GACC Midwest noted: "Dr. Maisel has been a strong driver of German-American business relations, and has been a pioneer for implementing skilled workforce solutions for manufacturers in America. As a highly-experienced industry business executive, we look forward to Dr. Maisel's effective leadership propelling the mission of GACC Midwest.

ABOUT US

The German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), headquartered in Chicago with a branch office in Detroit, was founded in 1963. GACC Midwest is an integral part of the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) with 130 offices in 90 countries around the globe. Our continuing mission is to assist in the expansion of bilateral trade and investment between Germany and the United States, especially the Midwest. Our organization combines elements of a trade commission, a membership association, and a professional consultancy. www.gaccmidwest.org | www.ahk-usa.com