

Miami, April 24, 2025

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, Florida Chapter  
April 23, 2025, 6:30 PM Jamon Iberico Pata Negra Restaurant, 10 SW South River Drive,  
Miami, FL 33130

**1. Call to order and establishment of a Quorum**

The meeting was held on the date, time, and place set forth above, and Rene Riedi called it to order at 6:30 PM. Rene Riedi, Chairman of the meeting, wrote the minutes. Proper notice was given, and the Quorum was established.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting of May 30, 2024, were unanimously approved.

**3. Report of the President**

The President's 2024 Report is attached.

**4. Re-election**

According to Art. VIII, Para 3 and Art. XII, Para 1 of the SACCFLL Bylaws, the term of office for Board members is two years. Since 2023 was the last election year, all Board members had to be re-elected.

All members present at the meeting unanimously confirmed the slate of Directors for an additional two-year term. This included

- Rene Riedi (Chairman)
- Katharina Weibel (Vice Chair)
- Emmanuel Buetler
- Claudio Riedi
- Roman Tschannen
- Karin Andersen
- Alex S. Furrer
- Sascha Nicolas Lang
- Schumetta McLendon
- Christopher Kuhn
- Christian Stocker

Davy Kaskason chose to step down, and Alexis Cardenas Mazin, who moved to Switzerland, was not seeking re-election.

The members also elected the following individuals to become Directors of the Board:

- Rosalba Zepeda (IQ Digital)
- Terry Fehlmann (Holycode)
- Simon Schoellkopf (Vontobel SFA)

Simon Schoellkopf will take on the role of Chapter Secretary, succeeding Alexis Cardenas Mazin.

## **5. Treasury and Audit Report**

The cash balance decreased by \$2,785.84 in 2024, from \$7,011.01 to \$4,225.17. This amount included a \$1,600 payment for an event that occurred in November 2023.

The primary sources of income were membership dues (\$5,500), event sign-ups (\$16,736.70), raffles (\$3,411.1), and sponsorships (\$24,077.78).

Sponsorships rose by 101% compared to 2024, primarily due to contributions related to the Swiss Innovation Night.

Major expenses included Flamenco Night (\$1,877.07), Martin Naville's farewell reception (\$5,125.36), and website maintenance and social media management (\$5,245.28).

In her audit report, Karin Andersen noted the rise in sponsorship funds and discussed the expenses associated with website maintenance and social media management.

## **6. Membership Report**

For the first time in five years, memberships have declined. They decreased from 46 to 42, resulting in a net loss of 4 members (3 additions, 7 cancellations).

For the record, we have added three new members (Giorgetti Athletics, Inc., Holycode, Inc., and Two Oceans) thus far in 2025; however, we risk losing six members due to unpaid dues.

Currently, we have 17 US residents (+1), 20 Active members (-7), and 5 Sustaining members (+2).

The members are asked to seek new members and refer them to the Chapter leadership. However, quality should take precedence over quantity, indicating that prospective members should have some connection to Switzerland.

## **7. Events**

A brief overview of all past and future events was provided.

The Florida Chapter of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce organized 12 events in 2024. The highlights were:

- SMGO 2024 at Crandon Golf Course
- Swiss Innovation Night
- Cocktail reception to bid farewell to Martin Naville and welcome Rahul Sahgal
- An event at EFG Capital in the presence of Rahul Sahgal
- Special reception celebrating the sister cities relationship between Miami Beach and Basel
- Visit the art program on board the Icon of the Seas by Royal Caribbean
- Swiss Innovation Night: fractional ownership in luxury & art

2025 has already seen six high-quality events, including:

- SIKA event co-hosted with Vontobel SFA
- Social security seminar with Ken Baron, co-hosted with Esther Amacher
- Fondue Night with the German-American Chamber of Commerce
- Cocktail reception at the Montreux Jazz Festival (jointly organized with the Swiss Embassy, the General Consulate of Switzerland in Atlanta, the Swiss Club Miami, and the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce)
- A tax seminar about international reporting obligations co-hosted with Carlton Fields
- Swiss Innovation Night: Alps & Palms – FinTech & Banking

For the remainder of 2025, several events are planned, including but not limited to:

- 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the SMGO at Crandon Golf Course in Key Biscayne on May 9
- A networking event at Casa Neos on June 18
- An evening with Pascal Koepfel (Vontobel SFA) in October 2025
- A fundraiser/charity event in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025
- An event around Art Basel Miami co-hosted with the Swiss Embassy in Washington, D.C., and other organizations (tbc)

## 8. Social Media Activity

In 2024, we spent USD 5,245.28 or 11% of our expenses on social media activities and website maintenance. Finding a more cost-effective solution to support the Chapter's digital presence was discussed.

We've seen increased engagement and followers on LinkedIn and Instagram, while activity on Facebook has remained steady.

Given the limited resources, focus will be on keeping the website current and expanding our followership on LinkedIn.

#### **9. Miscellaneous**

No new suggestions or ideas were brought up, no suggestions were made, and no expectations were expressed.

#### **10. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The 2025 Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. The participants were invited to food & drinks at the same address. The next AMM will take place in Qu I/26 at a date and location to be confirmed.

**Swiss American Chamber of Commerce – Florida Chapter, Inc**

**Rene Riedi**  
Chairman