



**MINUTES OF THE AGM MEETING OF THE NCCA
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 17 September 2014**

Board present: Mr Micha Helbig (Chairman) (MH)
Mr Sander van Amelsvoort (SvA)
Mr Mark Ekkel (ME)
Mr Hendrik Karsten (HK)
Mr Ron van Riet (RvR)
Mr Paul Kattestaart (PK)
Mrs Michelle Taylor – van de Merwe (MvdM)

Members present: Mr Richard Mendelsohn
Mr Freek Fuijkschot
Mrs Iet Fuijkschot
Mr Hans van Schoonhoven
Mr Ruud van Henten
Mr David Earl
Mr Sjoerd Herder
Mr Marco Morales
Mr Keith Reitsema
Ms Suzanne Weeda

Ms Victoire Blom is appointed as Secretary of the Association and declares that a Quorum is present.

Opening of the meeting at 18.15 hours.

Member apologies: Mrs C van Wees-Miller, Mr Patrick Ingenegeren, Mr Hans van Weerd, Mr Rod Croes, Mr Erwin Boermans, Mr Tod Charteris, Mr Tony Roosenburg, Mr Maurits Funke-Kupper, Ms Sigrid Schweiger, Mrs Petra Neeleman, Ms Bianca Slingerland, Mr Bill de Vos

Apologies Moved: RvR, seconded by Mrs Iet Fuijkschot.

Proxies received: Mr Hans Westerbeek and Mr Rod Croes

Conformation of Minutes of the AGM held on the 7th of November 2013 (ten hard copies distributed). The minutes of the AGM 2013 are confirmed as true record.

Minutes moved: Mr Freek Fuijkschot, seconded by PK.

Announcements:

The President thanks the members and board members for attending and agrees with all present that the meeting will commence in English.

Report of the President:

MH explained to the attendees that each Board member would speak a little about the subcommittees they're each heading. First to speak was Vice-President RvR:

Memberships

RvR spoke briefly about member retention and member renewal and explained that the large attrition on the books was due to a write-off of those members that hadn't renewed in their membership in the past couple of years. It was a mutual Board decision to remove them from the books in one go.

Marketing

PK spoke about the recent focus group that was conducted in June and gave an overview of the highlights from that group meeting. In general members were happy with the offering and the relaxed atmosphere at the events. Suggestions were made with regards to location, timing and day of the week for events and those suggestions will be taken on board for the event for 2015. Members would also like to see more interaction with the other European Chambers to broaden the offering.

Comments, questions and suggestions from attendees:

David Earl suggested to put this info onto the website so that members can get in touch and perhaps help out. This will be taken on board.

Hans van Schoonhoven wanted to know if demographics play a role in the variety of events. MH acknowledged that demographics indeed play a role and the membership has shifted to a slightly younger generation however the NCCA is mindful to be appealing to a broad selection of people. Members these days would like to get different things from their membership then perhaps a decade ago.

Hans van Schoonhoven mentioned that perhaps the older generation would like to help the newcomers out in a mentoring capacity and thus tapping into a new market. Hans also wanted to know about the average percentage of members attending events. MH responded that the percentage varies but lies around 25%. Recurring event attract more members, around third of the memberbase. The NCCA has noticed an increase in attendance and there is a definite momentum building that we will need to capitalize on.

Hans said that he would like to see more crossover events with other European Chambers such as the Italian Chamber. SvA responded that we will definitely take that on Board for the new year.

Sponsorship

HK informed the attendees that the NCCA retained it's sponsorship with Grolsch and Rabobank. We lost Emirates as a Principal Partner but gained Singapore Airlines. Hilton remains a Supporting Partner however in 2015 renovations are due for the hotel and continuing sponsorship might prove difficult.

HK also briefly spoke about the bespoke sponsorship program the NCCA has put together however finding new sponsors has proven to be quite difficult but something that the NCCA keeps focussing on.

Comments, questions and suggestions from attendees:

Hans van Schoonhoven asked what the NCCA has to offer potential sponsors. MH answered that it would depend on the sponsorship motivation of the potential sponsor and what they would like to get out of it. As an example MH mentioned that the Consulate-General in Sydney would like to sponsor to improve their trade promotion. Some companies feel an obligation due to their Dutch heritage such as Rabobank and Grolsch as it forms part of their corporate identity. Airlines like to sponsor to promote their European routes. However the primary reason is that we are labelled as a Dutch Chamber of Commerce and have important links with the diplomatic network that sponsors like to leverage off.

Keith Reitsema said that Dutch companies in Australia are like a team and the NCCA is the representative of that team therefore these companies should support the NCCA. MH recounted that most companies have tightened their belt and are sometimes unable to support.

Communication

MvdM spoke about the launch of the revamped website and how it will be the hub of the NCCA for members to communicate with not only the NCCA but also each other. The NCCA recently launched the Orange Elevator Pitch (OEP) which will give members a chance to briefly introduce themselves and their company to the other members of the NCCA but also the wider NCCA community. The Board has also seen a recent communication platform change as they are now using Yammer to communicate with each other.

Wider NCCA network

SvA spoke about the NCCA extended network such as the Netherlands Embassy in Canberra. The NCCA has a great relationship with the Embassy and they have become a trusted partner. Likewise for the CG in Sydney and the Honorary Consulate in Melbourne with Hans Nieuwland. The NCCA also has the EABC as partner and we are exploring options with them to make use of this extended network. We are also getting more actively involved with some of the other European Chambers which will hopefully give our membership a boost.

MH – thanked the Board and their efforts to make the past year(s) so successful. MH pointed out two personal event highlights the NCCA@home with Melbourne Zoo and the TEDxBinnenhof event. He also spoke about the momentum that is building within the Chamber and is looking forward to what 2015 is going to bring. He also thanked VB and in particular Nicola Wong from BKMA for their work over 2014.

Motion that the Presidents Report as presented is received and adopted.

Report moved: Mr Hans van Schoonhoven, and seconded by Mr Marco Morales.

Mr Micha Helbig is thanking all present for the attendance on behalf of the Board and himself and hands the chair over to the Treasurer, Mr Mark Ekkel (ME).

ME thanked Andrew Mills from PWC for their efforts in helping out with the financials, and Nicola Wong from BKMA for keeping a record of all the financials for the NCCA.

ME made special mention of thanks for his predecessor Remko Stikkelbroeck for all his hard work and leaving the finances in such good shape.

Financial report presented by our Treasurer, Mr Mark Ekkel.

The financial report is presented with special approval of PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) as independent auditors. Ten copies of the report are distributed to all present as well as three audit reports for their appraisal.

With thanks to ME and PWC for their thorough job collating the Financial Statements. Motion for Financial Statements to be received and adopted.

Report moved: SvA, seconded by Mr Richard Mendelsohn.

Appointment of Auditor.

Motion that Mr Andrew Mill of PriceWaterhouseCoopers be appointed as Auditor of the Association.

Appointment moved: RvR, seconded: Mrs Iet Fuijkschot

Mr Helbig added that he wished to thank PWC for their continued involvement and support as auditor of the NCCA. We know that PWC has done a very thorough job in auditing our books and that effort is greatly appreciated.

MH confirmed this resignation as President of the NCCA. MH has served five years, which is one year longer than usually allowed under the constitution exception of which was provided at the AGM of 2013.

MH informed the attendees that SvA had put in a nomination for President. RvR would stay on as VP, ME was recently appointed as Treasurer at the SGM, MvdM will stay on as Board member and HK will seek re-election as Board member. Unfortunately PK has informed the Board that he is unable to stay on as a Board member and will therefore not renew. MH officially thanked PK for all his hard work over the past two years in particular on the focus group.

Election of Office Bearers:

The Secretary:

A formal resignation has been received from Mr Micha Helbig as President.

A formal nomination has been received from Mr Sander van Amelsvoort, who is eligible for election as President. Mr van Amelsvoort is duly elected as President within the Constitution of the Chamber.

Committee Members serve two-year terms unless specifically tabled to allow this term to be extended.

A formal resignation has been received from Mr. Paul Kattestaart as Committee Member.

A formal nomination has been received from Mr Hendrik Karsten who is eligible for re-election as Board Member. Mr Karsten is declared duly elected as Board Member within the Constitution of the Chamber

A formal nomination has been received from Ms Bianca Slingerland who is eligible for election as Committee Member. Ms Slingerland is declared duly elected as Committee Member within the Constitution of the Chamber

The Secretary declares that the nominations as received, not exceeding the number of positions to be filled, are all deemed duly elected in accordance with the Constitution of the Chamber.

The Immediate Past President (IPP) MH congratulates Mr. Sander van Amelsvoort and Ms Slingerland on their new positions.

The IPP formally officially records his great appreciation for the contribution made by Paul Kattestaart.

The new President SvA thanks the attendees and MH for doing an outstanding job. The NCCA is in great shape and has a great team. SvA thanks PK for his efforts especially his work on the focus group and the report. SvA welcomes BS as a new Board member.

Closure

The Secretary declares the formal part of the meeting closed and proposes a vote of thanks to Micha Helbig and Paul Kattestaart

Motions to be put forward: none

The President declares the formal AGM Meeting closed at 19.35.