

A Note from the President - January 18, 2016

This report provides an overview of the programs and finances of the Scandinavian American Scandinavian Foundation of Georgia during the fiscal year 2015. The 2015 marked the commencement of a new social media platform for the organization, and our commitment to our new mission to share information about educational and cultural programs, lectures in the arts and public affairs; special film and musical events; international education symposiums; concerts; and gala events. Additionally, the SAFG continues to provide students, educators, scholars, artists, and educational and arts organizations with financial assistance, helping them to further their studies and work abroad. SAFG members and friends can now interact online - read and share their information, films, concerts, lectures, language classes, and activities. 2015 has been a new experience for SAFG, and I am grateful for the leadership and support of the SAFG members and volunteers, which has made it all possible.

The Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia (SAFG) serves as an educational and cultural link between the state of Georgia and the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. A publicly supported nonprofit organization, the Foundation fosters cultural understanding, provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, and sustains an extensive program of fellowships, grants, internships/training, publishing, and cultural events.

Scandinavians and Americans have participated in its exchange programs over the last decades. In 2015, the SAFG inaugurated new website and social media platform, to share a broad range of public programs furthering its mission to reinforce the strong relationships between the state of Georgia and the Nordic nations.

SAFG 2015 OFFICERS

Chairman - Margareta Martin, Margaretamartin@att.net
President - Minna LeVine, Minna.LeVine@ChamberofEcoCommerce.com
Secretary - Michael Gustafson, mexelplex@yahoo.com
Treasurer Arja Hanninen, Arja_Hanninen@bellsouth.net
Legal Counsel - Tom Rosseland, TRosseland@brawwlaw.com
VP Denmark - Gitte Toben, Gitte@mindspring.com
VP Finland - Anne Hamalainen, Annhamalainen@hotmail.com
VP Sweden - Mikael Norin, Atlanta@ConsulateofSweden.org
VP Iceland - Sigurdur Greippson, Sgreipss@kennesaw.edu
VP Norway - Erik Kind, Eriktheviking3678@comcast.net
Honorary Consul of Denmark in Macon - Christopher Smith, Mcngalaw@mindspring.com
Honorary Consul of Finland - John D. Saunders, Jsaunders@sgrlaw.com
Honorary Consul of Sweden - Mikael Norin, Atlanta@consulateofsweden.org
Honorary Consul of Iceland - open
Honorary Consul of Norway - open

2015 Events and Activities

- [New SAFG Website and Social Media Platform HERE](#)
- [Events in Georgia HERE](#)
- [TransAtlantic Education Leadership Exchange \(TELE\) 2015 HERE](#), [PR HERE](#), [Speakers HERE](#).

The SAFG is collaborating with many [independent regional groups HERE](#). These groups sponsor programs and activities for their local constituents.

2015 Annual Membership Meeting, WEDNESDAY, January 27, 7-9:00PM - Alpharetta

Please RSVP by January 20th, by emailing Minna.LeVine@ChamberofEcoCommerce.com

We will decide the place of the meeting based on how many members will be attending.

Minna LeVine

Minna.LeVine@ChamberofEcoCommerce.com

President

Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia (SAFG)

Annual Report - 2015

NEW - Internship and Workforce Training

We welcome Scandinavians to the state of Georgia and Americans to the Nordic Countries to participate in internships and training programs. The SAFG, supports various participants, by making it possible for them to acquire hands-on experience and gain new skills and knowledge. There has been more than 16,000 interns and trainees since the American-Scandinavian Foundation initiated this program in 1949. Scandinavian interns and trainees gain valuable professional experience, build beneficial relationships, and learn American business techniques to be applied upon returning to their home countries. Students and young professionals participate in a wide range of fields from engineering to fashion. Each participant is welcomed by the host firm as a member of the team and receives a direct, personal introduction to the American practice of his or her professional field. The SAFG is grateful to the many American businesses and organizations that make it possible for these interns and trainees to acquire hands-on experience and gain new skills and knowledge. The collaboration of the SAFG and other Nordic cooperating organizations is also an indispensable part of the program and is very much appreciated. The SAFG is now seeking Intern & Trainee hosting firms in the state of Georgia.

The SAFG will facilitate cultural exchanges between the state of Georgia and the five Nordic countries. Cultural and educational programs

TransAtlantic Education Leadership Exchange (TELE)

SAFG participated in TransAtlantic Education Leadership Exchange (TELE) 2015 in Atlanta. The TELE 2015 Symposium was the first event of its kind in the U.S. and was intended to begin an important dialogue between Americans and Scandinavians. The symposium featured a panel of educators and experts from the Nordic countries along with the leading American experts on early childhood development, and offered keynote presentations, panel discussions, and small break-out sessions. Attendees included practitioners and academics in the field of early childhood education from across the state of Georgia and Finland. The conference was co-hosted by SAFG.

Music & Performing Arts Music programs

Programs range from classical to contemporary, jazz, and new indie music. Performers and fellows studying music and performing arts programs.

Lectures & Symposia Lectures

SAFG continues to bring together Americans and Scandinavians to learn about and discuss a wide variety of topics and issues. These ranged from the future of the Arctic to emerging Finnish architecture, from Viking settlements in North America to contemporary Nordic crime fiction, from classical to emerging writers, and from economics to public affairs. Lecture series are presented in conjunction with exhibitions and symposiums.

Language Classes

Classes in Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish are offered in conjunction with our volunteers and other organizations.

Publishing

SAFG Social Media platform, serves information exchange between SAFG members, donors, friends, patrons, and others interested in the Nordic region. The SAFG presents a variety of articles on life and culture in the Nordic countries along with presentations on current exhibitions and history. We encourage participation from our community - column featuring news and information of interest to SAFG community.

Ways to Support the Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia (SAFG)

Annual contributions help the SAFG to sustain its mission to promote international understanding through educational and cultural exchange between the state of Georgia and Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Cash

Writing a check is the simplest way to make a gift to the Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia. For income tax purposes, the gift is deductible to the extent provided by the law.

Pledges

We ask that all annual pledges be fulfilled by the close of our fiscal year, May 15th.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of appreciated securities are always welcome and may offer significant tax advantages to the donor Planned Gifts. There are several ways to make planned gifts to the SAFG and obtain tax benefits of charitable giving. The SAFG welcomes the opportunity to review planned giving alternatives and approaches with you. For more information on ways to give to the SAFG how to transfer stock, or discuss planned giving please email info@SAFGGeorgia.com

Membership

The SAFG Membership Program provides individuals with opportunities to discover the legacy of Scandinavian arts, culture, and thought, while providing vital financial support to the Foundation. There are many great benefits offered to SAFG Members. All members can read and share information, and participate exhibitions, lectures, concerts, and programs; discounts and invitations to member only events.

SAFG will host or co-host the following:

- TRANSATLANTIC EDUCATION LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE Symposium October 2016 in Finland
- SCANDINAVIAN SPEAKER SERIES at WORLD TRADE CENTER ATLANTA
- SCANDINAVIAN CUISINE, CULTURE, HISTORY social events in Georgia
- SPORT EVENTS in Georgia

SAFG fundraising event: ANNUAL GALA & CONCERT - December 2016 Georgia

Friends and supporters of the SAFG will gather together in December 2016 in Atlanta, for an evening of dinner, dancing, music, and friendship at the SAFG Annual Gala. This event welcomes and honors the SAFG volunteers' extraordinary efforts to increase the awareness and appreciation of Scandinavian-American understanding through educational and cultural exchange between the State of Georgia and Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

2015 Financial Report and more information

Contact Minna LeVine by email: Minna.LeVine@ChamberofEcoCommerce.com