



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

APRIL 19, 2018
 Primate's Palace, Bratislava

The General Assembly occupies a unique place in AmCham's calendar of events. The program traditionally includes an evaluation of the previous year's efforts and activities. It offers the members a compact view of various areas of AmCham's performance, highlights the success stories but also hints at possible areas for improvement. Seeing the year's efforts summarized in this form also gives the staff as well as the Board of Directors a more complex picture of AmCham's activities and mission. At the same time, the General Assembly is traditionally associated with the presentation of the newly-elected members of AmCham's Board of Directors, who are given the chance to help shape AmCham's future.

The event has found its stable venue in the impressive premises of the Primate's Palace. While last year's General Assembly held exactly a year ago was also memorable because of a snowstorm which surprised Bratislava, this year's weather felt more like the height of the summer season. A brief welcome drink was followed by a comprehensive, multi-media review of AmCham's activities

and achievements in 2017. The official part of the program was opened by Todd Bradshaw, AmCham's President, who welcomed all the attendees and informed them about the upcoming program. The next honorable guest to take the stage was US Ambassador to Slovakia Adam H. Sterling, who mentioned the long fruitful cooperation between AmCham and the US Embassy.



2017 year of
human capital

The introductory speeches were followed by an overview of AmCham's activities in 2017, delivered by Todd Bradshaw. AmCham's efforts in the policy and advocacy field strengthened its position of a respected representative of the business community and a unified voice of its member companies. In 2017, AmCham, on behalf of its members united in 12 policy platforms, submitted 209 legislative comments and

opened access to relevant public stakeholders thanks to 183 working meetings with relevant government officials/MPs. Its activities haven't gone unnoticed, as it was featured in 157 relevant media appearances. The year 2017 was designated as the "Year of Human Capital". AmCham was committed to addressing two main pillars – education and labor/employment issues – therefore tackling the lack of a qualified workforce as the main concern for a wide range of members.

AmCham's Rule of Law Initiative was very successful at voicing the concerns of the business community. It

continues to increase the pressure on the government by publicly criticizing where the commitments don't meet the desired standards. In 2017 it was very active in relation to the elections of the new head of the Public Procurement Office and the subsequent debate on independent regulatory institutions. Other policy efforts of 2017 which deserve a special mention include the continuing development of the Business Service Center Forum and its growing activities, or AmCham's contribution to the adoption of a complex regulatory reform RIA 2020 – Better Regulation Strategy.

2017 was a very successful year for AmCham also in the membership area. It reached the highest number of members in its history – 356. Positive feedback and inspiring suggestions resulted from the 2017 Membership survey, conducted between September and November of last year. The survey indicated the highest overall membership satisfaction (96%) of all four surveys conducted so far and members selected networking and business development as the most valuable AmCham benefit (92%).



ADAM H. STERLING
 Ambassador, US Embassy



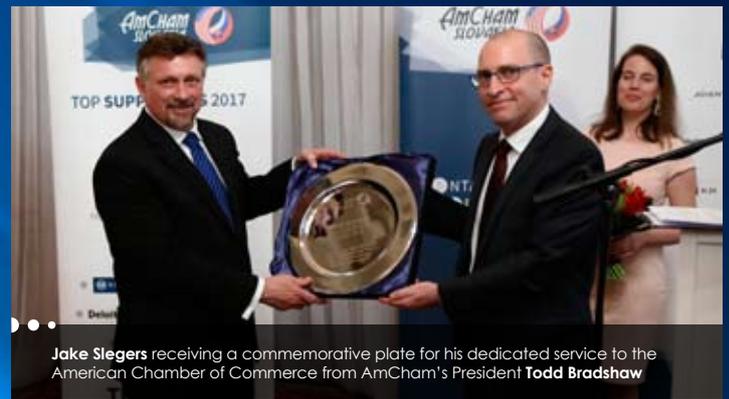
TODD BRADSHAW
 President of AmCham Slovakia



MARTIN KRIVÁK
 CEO of Krivák & Co



TOP SUPPORTERS 2017



Jake Slegers receiving a commemorative plate for his dedicated service to the American Chamber of Commerce from AmCham's President **Todd Bradshaw**

The members were also able to enjoy the full spectrum of AmCham events; to attend conferences, network at business cocktails and also share their knowledge with teachers and students and have a positive impact on the universities. Two new concepts were successfully introduced last year – the CEO Network Business Cocktail and Inspiring Stories by Local Heroes. In total, AmCham organized 65 events during the year which were attended by almost 3000 participants.

The speaker who drew the biggest applause of the crowd was AmCham's Executive Director Jake Slegers, who decided to pursue other challenges after 17 years in this position. Todd Bradshaw thanked him on behalf of the Board of Directors, all the member companies as well as the AmCham staff. This issue of Connection also features an interview with the departing Executive Director in which he shares some interesting memories from his AmCham journey.

The program traditionally included the awaited announcement of AmCham's top supporters for 2017. The revealed banner with the top ten supporters will be present at all AmCham events during the year. Representatives of the top three supporters were invited on stage to be personally thanked by Todd Bradshaw and Jake Slegers.

Once the votes cast on-the-spot were added to those received by mail, it was finally time to present the official results of the Elections to AmCham Board of Directors. The names of the newly-elected Board members were announced by Martin Krivák, CEO of Krivak & Co.

The following nominees were elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term:

- AGUADO, Santiago - Country Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Enterprise Slovakia
- BRADSHAW, Todd - Managing Partner, PwC Central & Eastern Europe
- BUCKISO, Scott - President, U. S. Steel Košice
- CAULFIELD, Stephen - General Manager, DELL
- KOPEČNÝ, Pavol - General Manager, ECENTER
- KOVÁČ, Peter - Director of Bratislava Business Center, Adient Slovakia
- MAŠTALÍR, Martin - Area Manager, Cisco Systems Slovakia
- MATEJÍK, Frídrieh - Country Leader, IBM Slovensko
- SEDMINA, Rudolf - Partner, KPMG Slovakia

The other members of the Board of Directors are:

- BENEDIGOVÁ, Michaela - Managing Director, SEESAME Communication Experts
- BUDKE, Branislav - Country Manager, Pfizer Slovakia
- GALGÓCI, Gabriel - Country General Manager for Slovakia



AmCham's Top Supporter for 2017: **Peter Kováč** CEO of Adient Slovakia (middle) with **Todd Bradshaw**, President of AmCham Slovakia (right); and **Jake Slegers**, Executive Director of AmCham Slovakia (left)



& Director Client Network Operations, AT&T Global Network Services Slovakia

- KOLESÁR, Peter - Chief Executive Officer, Neulogy
- MOLNÁR, Stanislav - Country Leader, Oracle Slovensko
- SKRAK, Šimon - Director of Digital Accenture Slovakia

- ŠPAŇÁROVÁ, Veronika - Director, Citi Country Officer for Slovakia; Citibank Europe plc
- WEBER, Biljana - General Manager, Microsoft in the Czech Republic and Slovakia