AmCham reelected Dr. Farkas Bársony as President, along with a new second vice president, and five members at large.

The December 13 event at the Budapest Marriott Hotel was AmCham’s 29th annual general assembly, moved from its usual afternoon slot to the morning.

Bársony’s election as president was uncontested, perhaps an indication of how well received his tenure has been since he emerged victorious from a three-way race for the position in 2017, but he still had to get the approval of the meeting.

“Thank you for the trust you truly demonstrated in the last couple of years along the actions I made, we made as a board, we made as an organization,” he concluded.

“Thanks for all the volunteer hours [you put in] in contributing to make our goals. Without your help, we would not be where we are today as the most prestigious organization of our business community and beyond.”

The other elections were far from one-horse races, however; there were four candidates for the second VP role, and 12 for the members at large. As the chamber’s CEO Irízai Lippai-Nagy said towards the end of the meeting, “In my time involved with AmCham, we have never had such a prestigious, big group of people as this, so many candidates.”

Kevin Murray, country head for Citibank Europe in Hungary and CEO of Citi Central Europe won a close fought contest for the second VP’s position. Banking is actually his second career: he is a decorated retired Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF. He has been with Citi for 32 years, during which time he has lived in six countries beyond the United States, and been on “ten boards, seven of which I have chaired.”

The victorious board members at large were: Ákos Burján (PwC Hungary, who also contested the second VP position); Ildikó Beck (Beck to Nature, LLC); Dr. Dávid Kőhegyi (DLA Piper); Taira-Julia Lammi (ABB Kft.) and Zoltán Szabó (BT Regional Operations Center).

Burján, a tax partner, was reelected to the board. He told the assembly “I like living in Hungary, but I’d like to make it a better place, not just for us [business people], but these two little ones [his children] and your kids.” He particularly wants to have a stronger presence of women on boards and in leadership positions.

Ribbs, wings and gridiron football: what’s not to like? Super Bowl LIII, the 53rd Super Bowl and the 49th modern-era championship game of the National Football League, will be held on February 3 in the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. But if that seems a little far (and expensive) to go, you can also follow the game live at the traditional AmCham/TGI Friday’s party in WestEnd. The event is only open to AmCham members. Stay tuned for more information.

Ring Out The Remarkable, Ring In The Truly Special

Six AmCham Companies Earn Disability-friendly Workplace Award

ACF: Code Theater Reveals The “Unknown”
Board Directors

Kevin A. MURRAY
Second Vice President
Citadele Europe PLC, Hungary Branch

Codor LAZLÓ
Secretary Treasurer
Corvinus University of Budapest
Board Members at large

Ákos RECK, PhD.
Back To Nature, LLC

Edith BENCZIK
TOM Consultants Services Ltd.

Barbara KÖHEGYI

BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT

Ákos BURJÁN
PwC Magyarország Kft.
Dr. Dalida KARPLÉN
DLA Piper Priziv, Hamedonić, Győr, and Tatár Ugyvészi Iroda

Ilona LAM edged
Julia LAMER

Dr. Lippai-Nagy
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Iván Völgyes Award
The annual award also sees the presentation of an award to those individuals who have pursued outstanding achievements and contributions in furthering the diplomatic and economic relationships between the United States and Hungary in the past year.

The Dr. Iván Völgyes Award was launched in 2019, and is named for the man who helped launch modern US-Hungarian relations. Dr. Völgyes is a Hungarian-American who was a physician in Hungary, who worked on John F. Kennedy’s presidential campaign in 1960, and who has since been a driving force in Hungarian-American diplomatic and economic relations over the past years.

The Dr. Iván Völgyes Award is presented at an award ceremony each year at the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary’s annual gala dinner, which this year was held on November 29, 2019.

This year the award was presented to Mr. Gábor Orsos, who has been the Executive Director of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Competition since 2018. Mr. Orsos has been a key figure in the European Commission’s efforts to promote competition, and his work has been instrumental in shaping the European Union’s competition policy. In addition to his role at the European Commission, Mr. Orsos is also a visiting professor at the University of Oxford, and he has published extensively on competition law and policy.

Mr. Orsos was presented with the award by Dr. Iván Völgyes, the founder of the award, and by the AmCham CEO Lippai-Nagy.

Mr. Orsos thanked the AmCham for the award, and noted that he was honored to receive it. He also thanked the European Union for its commitment to promoting competition, and he noted that the award was a testament to the importance of competition in fostering innovation and economic growth.

Mr. Orsos also noted that the award was a reminder of the importance of the relationship between the United States and Hungary, and he noted that the award was a symbol of the enduring friendship between the two countries.

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Continental Tobacco In Major Expansion

German tobacco giant Continental Tobacco has announced a USD 51 million (HUF 15 billion) investment in its Hungarian unit, which employs 625 workers, at its base in Budapest. The investment will broaden the product palette among them Pizza Hut, KFC, Burger King and also win in a strong international competition. The Hungarian unit of Danish appliance manufacturer Vestfrost will spend USD 15.4 million (HUF 45 billion) to expand its power tool assembly capacity. The Japanese-owned TDK Hungary Components employs 2,700 people at its base in Miskolc, close to Lake Tisza (261 km east of Budapest, 165 km southeast of Budapest), Körösladány (206 km southeast of Budapest) and Székesfehérvár (62 km northwest of Budapest) on December 4, autopro.hu reported. The Hungarian unit of the German power tool assembly capacity, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced the launch of a more than USD 3.5 million (HUF 1 billion) project to develop the next generation of aluminum electrolytic capacitors, which will create 150 jobs, with a HUF 73.5 million grant, it added. According to Sajád, similar to previous years, this investment was also won in a strong international competition. Hanex System has long been present in the country and opened the unit in 1990. Palletways launched a business in Hungary. Czech entrepreneur Michal Micka is investing EUR 4 million to open stores for his clothing brands in the country. The AmCham Hungary Wall of Fame: Winter 2018.
Disability-friendly Workplace Award

The demand for the employment of people with disabilities is rising year by year,” said Katalin Vég, managing director of the Excellence Association, it recognizes organizations that have proven their commitment to the employment of people with disabilities. “Those who have been nominated or received an award tonight are now part of a community,” she said, speaking at the event. “This team is open to share best practices, success stories and discuss challenges. We are backing forward to opening new, accessible markets, and to be a partner to them in their start-up journey towards employment.”

Pwc Hungary

PwC, one of the world’s leading business consultancy firms, helps clients achieve their goals through professional services. With offices in 154 countries and more than 260,000 professionals, PwC is committed to creating lasting and meaningful change. For the first time, a “Role Model Award” was presented to disabled workers for their outstanding performance, which can serve as an example to others.

What would you like to see change to improve the business climate here?

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If you could reform one thing in Hungary, what would it be?

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ACF: Code Theater Reveals The “Unknown”

On November 21, ACF’s Code Theater, a program dedicated to promoting safer internet usage to children through relatable plays, premiered a new show, “Unknown”.

In fact, only the title of the show is unknown; the themes it discusses, unfortunately, are issues we all face every day. The story, presented in three parts, introduces a new couple who become acquainted online and the bitter ex-girlfriend who becomes a bully.

The sparking relationship of the teenagers sets the scene, but the audience quickly learn that reality is vastly different from the image that our friends, followers, influencers and even we project of ourselves.

In the next scene, the newfound relationship takes a bad turn with the appearance of a bitter and bullying ex-girlfriend. In the final act, the ex-girlfriend starts snoops around the new girlfriend’s social media profiles to find information she can use to humiliate or harass her rival.

After the performance, psychologist and advisor Gergő Villányi, journalist at Modern Iskola Hajnalka Fülöp, and Kati Barács, a family and child law expert analyzed the play and the children had the opportunity to share their own stories or to ask questions from the guest speakers.

Code Theater will continue to provide creative and entertaining solutions to highlight the challenges of our digital experiences through the power of the stage in 2019.

CAREER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

AmCham proudly launched its nationwide Career Orientation Program to provide a platform for corporate volunteers and secondary school teachers to get in touch and organize orientation classes, to help students make informed decisions about their future career paths.

If you feel the urge to inspire and want to share your knowledge to help prepare the next generation for one of the most important decisions of their lives, join the 80+ companies, 165+ dedicated volunteers who have already signed up to make a difference.

Scan the QR code to visit our site and register now to become an Ambassador!