

Past Events - Detail Page

Title: Breakfast Meeting - Annual Market Trends
Category: Breakfast Meeting
Location: The Metropolitan Club, Sears Tower, 66th Fl
Start Date: April 7, 2006
End Date: April 7, 2006
City: Chicago
Description: **7:30 am - 9:15 am**

2006 Annual Market Trends Breakfast Meeting

Panelists

Richard J. DeKaser, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist, National City Corporation

William G. Harlan, Partner, Prism Mezzanine Fund

John A. Svoboda, Senior Managing Director, Svoboda, Collins L.L.C.

Kenneth R Yager, Manager, Morris-Anderson & Associates, Ltd.

Richard J. DeKaser is Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at National City Corporation, where he provides analysis to senior management, business leaders, and clients of the bank. His responsibilities include economic forecasting and financial market analysis.

Mr. DeKaser is responsible for the corporation's economic and interest rate forecasts and related research. Mr. DeKaser also authors the *Financial Market Outlook*, a monthly commentary on timely economic issues, and *The Region*, offering quarterly analysis and forecasts of the Midwest economy. Each is available via mail or on the National City Economics Web site (www.nationalcity.com/economics).

Prior to joining National City, Mr. DeKaser was senior financial economist at Bank of Boston, now Bank of America, where he handled capital market and risk management research. Previous to that, Mr. DeKaser was senior associate at Data Resources Inc., a division of Standard and Poors Corporation, where he managed contract research and forecasting. Mr. DeKaser joined DRI after serving two years as staff economist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Mr. DeKaser is a graduate of New York University, where he received undergraduate and advanced degrees in economics. Mr. DeKaser is a member of the Governor's (Hon. Robert Taft) Council of Economic Advisors, contributes to the *Blue Chip Economic Indicators* and *Financial Forecasts*, and was recognized by *USA Today* as fourth most accurate forecaster in 2004 and third most accurate in 2003—the only economist to place in the top five each year. Mr. DeKaser is a former chairman of the American Bankers Association's Economic Advisory Committee, former member of the Business Research Advisory Council (an advisory board to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics), and past president of the New England Economic Project.

Mr. DeKaser is often quoted in leading financial publications, including the *Wall Street Journal* and *Business Week*, appears frequently on Bloomberg, CNBC and Fox News television broadcasts, and is a widely sought-after public speaker.

William Harlan has 17 years of experience financing and investing in middle-market companies including 11 years experience as a mezzanine investor. Prior to joining Prism, Mr. Harlan headed the Chicago office of Golub Capital, a provider of junior capital to middle market companies. Prior to joining Golub, Mr. Harlan was a principal with CID Equity Partners, a Midwest-based private investment firm with mezzanine and equity funds. Prior to joining CID, Mr. Harlan helped form ANB Mezzanine Corporation (now operating as Chase Mezzanine). Mr. Harlan has experience originating, underwriting, closing and managing investments. Earlier, Mr. Harlan worked for American National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago in commercial lending and loan workout positions. He has been a director of several privately held companies and not-for-profit organizations.

Mr. Harlan received an MBA from the University of Chicago and holds a Bachelors degree from the University of Notre Dame.

John Svoboda is co-founder of Svoboda, Collins L.L.C., a private equity firm with over \$200 million of capital and a mission of identifying, investing in and building relationships with middle market business services, value-added distribution and consumer products companies. Mr. Svoboda founded the firm in 1998 with Michelle L. Collins, who was also a partner at William Blair. Prior to founding SC, John managed Blair's interface with venture capital and buyout firms. He worked at Blair from 1983 to 1997 and became a partner in 1988.

Mr. Svoboda graduated from Williams College with a BA in 1979 and received his MBA from Stanford University in 1983. Mr. Svoboda serves on the board of several private companies including Midwest Dental, Inc., World Data Corporation, GPA Holdings, and PNA Holdings. John serves as a trustee of the Francis W. Parker School, the Otho S. A. Sprague Memorial Institute, The Marwen Foundation and the University of Chicago Hospital System.

Kenneth Yager has nearly 2 decades of executive and general management experience, including capital-raising, P&L responsibilities for cash-constrained companies, the implementation of planning, operations, project management, and team building processes, B2B marketing, sales and joint-venture management.

Mr. Yager currently serves as a manager for Morris-Anderson & Associates Ltd., providing performance enhancement, turn around advisory, financial advisory and interim management for primarily middle market companies. Prior to joining Morris-Anderson & Associates, Mr. Yager headed Newpoint Ventures, which revitalized middle-market companies through new management and introduction of low-cost employee leveraging tools. Additionally, Mr. Yager has served as Vice President, Equity Sponsor Business Development at Bank of America; Senior Associate at Coopers & Lybrand, where he received his CPA; and Financial Analyst in the Capital Markets Division of Salomon Brothers.

Mr. Yager earned his Bachelors degree in Management with majors in Finance and Accounting from Tulane University, A.B. Freeman School of Business; and a Master of Management degree from J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management. He is a former President, Kellogg Alumni Club, and is a member of the Chicago/Midwest chapter of the TMA.

Registration Fees:

ACG Members \$30.00

Non-ACG Members \$40.00

Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations received in writing via email at Chicagoacg@acg.org by Feb. 2, 5pm will be fully refunded.

There are no refunds for no shows.

Platinum Sponsors

Bank of America



Billow Butler & Company, L.L.C.



Dresner Partners



Grant Thornton LLP



PNC Business Credit



RSM McGladrey, Inc.



Seyfarth Shaw LLP



Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

Ungaretti & Harris LLP



Gold Sponsors

BMO Capital Markets

Crowe Capital Markets LLC

Getzler Henrich and Associates LLC

Golub Capital

Lincolnshire Management, Inc.

Mesirow Financial

Vedder, Price P.C.

Wells Fargo Business Credit

Silver Sponsors

The Jordan Company

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Tatum LLC

[HOME](#) | [Events](#) | [Join](#) | [Links](#) | [Leadership](#) | [News](#) | [Sponsors](#) | [Library](#) | [Member Directory](#) | [Past Events](#) | [ACG.org](#)

© 2009 ACG