

Minutes
DANK National Executive Board Conference
DANK Haus – 6th Floor
Saturday, February 2, 2008

Attending: William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Linda Voit, Beverly Pochatko, Harald Pitz, Maria Thompson, Reinhard Lippert, Margaret Kodrzycki, Dan Weiss, Ernst Ott

Absent: Walter Coche, Michael Spletzer

Guests: (Committee Members) Alexandra Ott, Christa Garcia, Ann Marie Fuhrig, Ron Zielinski, Hans Wolf, John Dienhart, Terry Viebach.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Why We Are Here: This conference meeting is confined to the setting of goals and priorities between meetings of the Board. This will enable our Board to act more efficiently at the Executive Board Meeting.

Committee Management: Erik Wittmann – Just how do the Committees work together to get a job done.

- Example: Membership also involves development and outreach. The Financial Committee works with them also to see what resources are available to use.
- We need to set our goals, our mission, know the ability to do this and utilize persons in their various areas of expertise.

The goals and Priorities are set forth in a handout and show the dependency of one upon the other, starting with improvements within our Infrastructure (National Office) and Technical Services. These in turn have an effect on Membership, Newspaper & Publishing Services, Marketing & Public Relations, Finance, Investment, Education, Legal & Insurance Issues and Washington Affairs.

- A possible change in our **Infrastructure** may be forthcoming by DANK North. The HofBräu Haus of Munich is considering leasing the first floor and establishing a micro-brewery and ‘Pub’. Our offices on the 2nd floor may be moved to the 4th floor; however we will still do necessary renovations to make our office space more efficient. Many other exciting changes are being considered at this time.
- **Technical Services** – Our database problems are being fixed and there will be access to additional inquiries that have not worked properly in the past. We hope to replace our old database program. New membership renewal forms are being designed to print out on the laser printer instead of the outdated dot-matrix printer.
- **Membership** - We want to enlarge the base membership of Members At Large – We need to give all Germanic people a reason to belong to DANK.
 - **Realign the Regions** – Chapter Phoenix currently is not part of a Region and we propose to assign them to Region 2. Region 4 Chapters will be moved into Region 3 which currently represents 4 Chapters.

- We also need to address the issue of membership renewal for language students as many of them join in September. It causes confusion when they receive the January renewal notice.
- **Newspaper & Publishing Services** - To better get information from the Chapters, all Chapter Secretaries/Newsletter Editors will be asked to send their Chapter and Region news to our Secretary, Beverly Pochatko. She will then put the info into the proper format and send it to our layout person to include in the newspaper. There is also a schedule for getting the info submitted for inclusion in the newspaper. It will also appear in the GAJ.
- **Marketing and Public Relations** – Currently we are working on a new web design. Hans Wolf (a marketing & design specialist) and Ron Zielinski (Product Innovations specialist) will co-chair this committee.
 - To bring in young members – “Be a Mentor” – this again goes includes the Membership Committee.
- **Education** - We are looking for standard insurance for the Chapters with schools. Each Chapter will pay its own insurance premium for this school insurance.
- **Finance** – Harald Pitz will continue to work on our budget
- **National Miss DANK Contest** - There has been renewed interest in this contest and Terri Viebach has offered to chair this Committee.

There have been requests to donate memorabilia to DANK National for the Museum. We need to work with DANK North to determine how to handle these requests.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Report: The transition between the former Treasurer Bob Brouse and Linda Voit our new Treasurer went smoothly. As of January 31, 2008, Income was \$15,506.61; Expenses – 9,276.02. our net income was \$6,230.00. Our total assets – equity in the bank are \$95,081.
Motion to accept the Financial Report by Erik Wittmann. 2nd by Donna Lippert. Motion Carried.

- **It was the general consensus the Treasurer be allowed to pay bills via banking on the internet to save on possible late fees and take advantage of early payment discounts.**
- **It was noted that Siegfried Endlichhoffer is on vacation and possibly not available to handle the investments account. The elected Board will discuss this further.**

Budget: Harald Pitz – Harold presented a copy of the proposed budget for 2008. We carried a loss of approximately \$24,500 in 2007. Thanks to an influx of nearly 300 new members for DANK North, their dues helped to offset a loss.

Proposed Income for 2008 is \$100,000. Expenses - \$146,000

A new item was for office renovations of \$10,000 that is necessary to bringing us up par.

We deleted the \$4,500 Convention expenses.

Harald will continue to pursue balancing the budget.

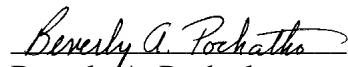
Motion to accept the 2008 Budget with the correction (-\$4,500 / convention) was made by Erik Wittmann, seconded by Linda Voit. Motion carried.

Membership – The mission has already been stated in earlier commentary. (See Goals & Priorities)

Newspaper - Beverly Pochatko was appointed the liaison between the Chapters and the Newspaper. Ernst Ott remains the Editor.

Schools: There will be a schools meeting in Chicago and NP Fuchs was invited to attend. The Executive Board has asked the School Committee to prepare a form to give members with a breakdown of what we offer to language students in a clear manner. (See priority Goals). There needs to be only one person to be the spokesperson for the schools.

Committee Portion of the Conference was adjourned at 12:20 on a motion by Harold Pitz.
Seconded by Ron Zielinski.



Beverly A. Pochatko
Recording Secretary

Minutes

**DANK Executive Board Meeting
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Saturday, February 2, 2008**

Attending: William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Linda Voit, Beverly Pochatko, Harald Pitz, Maria Thompson, Reinhard Lippert, Margaret Kodrzycki, Dan Weiss, Ernst Ott

Absent: Walter Coche, Michael Spletzer

Guests: Alexandra Ott, Christa Garcia, Ann Marie Fuhrig, Ron Zielinski, Hans Wolf, John Dienhart, Terry Viebach.

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Minutes: Minutes of the National Convention and the Conference Call Meeting of the Elected Board in December were distributed for attendees' perusal. They have been accepted by the Board.

Additions to the Agenda: 50th Anniversary and the Schools Committee

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Member dues: Thanks to Chicago West and Harald Pitz for assisting in the mailing of dues statements.** Statements were sent to all members. For those members not paid, a second mailing will be done. After discussion, it was determined that a letter will be sent as a reminder, saving on time and a more personal touch by March 1st. A list of all unpaid Chapter members will be sent to the Chapter officers at the same time for them to also contact their membership on getting their dues payments in.
- **Chapter Election Updates:** There was a positive change in DANK North when they added approximately 300 new members with their Membership Drive. All Chapters are now believed to have held their elections. **Chapter Problems:** There is no consensus on the active/non active chapters. We want to see a 10% increase in all chapter memberships and promote more active participation. **Chapter Peoria:** Letter was sent to members and Erik Wittmann has offered to meet with them to offer suggestions on keeping their chapter active. **Chapter Frankfurt,** listed as an inactive chapter was in reality merged into DANK South. Needs to be changed on our books. **Chapters Rockford and Indianapolis** have the potential to renew. Sub-Chapters can be formed with a viable Chapter. To get new Chapters, we need to look where the money is allocated in the Budget. Each new Chapter has been promised \$300 in start-up funds. **Oklahoma City** is in the process of becoming a new Chapter.
- **New phone/Internet Contract** – We now have a new toll-free number. **866-926-1109.** This new number will also allow transfer of calls when appropriate.
- **A decision needs to be made on what to do with assets from “Closed Chapters”**
Many inactive/closed chapters still have funds in the bank.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Who is our Board?** We need to get the names of all Regional Representative ALTERNATES to update our files.

- **The position of Parliamentarian was discussed. A motion to make the Parliamentarian a voting member of the Executive Board was made by Erik Wittmann, seconded by Linda Voit. After discussion the motion was defeated with a vote of 10 nay.**
 Bob Miske, a Region 1 Representative, was appointed by the Executive Board at the National Convention as Parliamentarian. This appointment is not in conflict and therefore he will remain as Region 1 Rep.
- Merging of Region 3 and 4 and Chapter Phoenix into Chapter 2. It was noted that Region 4 has not been present at Executive Board Meetings for some time. By merging Region 4 into Region 3, there will be more active representation for the 2 Chapters (Pasack Valley and Philadelphia) involved. Region 3 currently has 4 Chapters and can handle the addition.
A motion to merge Region 4 into Region 3 was made by Erik Wittmann, seconded by Beverly Pochatko. Motion Carried.
- Since Chapter Phoenix is not represented by any Region due to its location, it was determined that Region 2 could best represent them. Region 1 is already over crowded.
A motion to incorporate Chapter Phoenix into Region 2 to give them better representation on the National Board was made by Erik Wittmann, seconded by Harald Pitz. Motion carried.
- **Members-At-Large** – These members currently are not attached to a Chapter for various reasons. **A motion was made by Linda Voit, seconded by Harald Pitz, to classify Members at Large as DANK National Members. Motion carried.**
 The Membership Committee will set up the standards to be a National Member.
 The dues rebate normally given to a Chapter will remain with National.
 Erik Wittmann said he would like to set levels possibly using a point system to give competition and pride among the Chapters to be for instance...a gold, silver or bronze chapter. This will be done by the Membership Committee.
- Merl Arp has been our Washington liaison. After a conversation with NP Fuchs, he agreed to stay on in this position. **A Motion to appoint Merl Arp as our “DANK Governmental Affairs Liaison” effective immediately was made by Erik Wittmann. Seconded by Beverly Pochatko. Motion Carried. NP Fuchs will send him a letter verifying his appointment.**

 - Merl also agreed to stay on and assist with our Associate Member program.
 The Executive Board will also give ideas on our Associate Member recruitment.
- **DANK EDUCATION FUND** – (aka the German American School & Education Fund)
 There was discussion on how the fund is handled, i.e. criteria for applying for and receiving funding. Currently it is staffed by Ernst Ott, Robert Brouse and Melissa Lesniewski. **A motion was made by Erik Wittmann and seconded by Beverly Pochatko to add two new members (Linda Voit and Donna Lippert) to their Board on the approval of the current Fund Board. (2 abst.) Motion Carried.** Mr. Ott said he will take the recommendation to their Board.

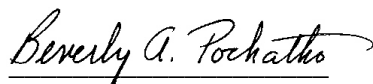
- The Executive Board would also like to see them set the criteria on applying for and receiving funding. Is there a 'cap' on how much funding any one can receive (i.e. yearly/lifetime?)
 - The Executive Board asked that the Education Fund Board submit their audit results to our National Treasurer.
 - Christa Garcia said she would like to see the German Education Fund work together with the DANK Fund.
- **Meeting Calendar** – The Board has proposed 4 meetings per year – three more like today and the addition of two or more teleconferences for the elected Board members. On the Monday following a full Board meeting in Chicago, the office will be closed as the Secretary, Eva Timmerhaus, is a member of the full Board.

Next full meetings of the Board will be on May 17th and October 11th. The Board will plan to attend DANK West's Mai Tanz on Saturday evening and DANK South's dedication on Sunday.

- **50th Anniversary Celebration** – (Cobi Stein, Chair). We need to start in full force at our May meeting with the Committee. Work with the Marketing Committee on what we want to present. Most everyone was surprised to learn that there is a DANK Lied. Copy will be given everyone.
 - Another suggestion was to publish a book on the History of DANK. It would be of no cost to us. WE order a number of books and the company will market them.
- **Schools Committee:** There is a need to have a unified voice from this group. NP Fuchs asked Maria Thompson to be the facilitator for this group. Everything will be 'run' past her before making statements or correspondence public. They are planning an all-day event for all schools. More information will be forthcoming.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Lippert, seconded by Reinhard Lippert.
Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm**

This evening, the Board will be attending the Rheinischer Verein's Mardi Gras Maskenball at the Rosemont Convention Center.



Beverly A. Pochatko
Recording Secretary