



**German American National Congress  
National Executive Board Committees Meeting  
Saturday, March 6, 2010**

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 AM in the Midway Conference Room at the Residence Inn O/Hare

**Attending:** Bill Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Beverly Pochatko, Edwin Gunther, Bob Miske, Rein Lippert, Dave Hinz, Margaret Potocki, Eva Timmerhaus, Amelia Cotter, Darlene Fuchs, Stephen Fuchs, Ernst Ott, Ann Marie Fuhrig, Christa Garcia, Margret Schrant, Jerry Schliephake, and Dave Fairbrother.

**Excused:** Maria Thompson, Chris Decker. **Guests:** Al Schafer, Martin Hartung, (DANK Chicago); Christel Miske, Ursula Gunther, Mary Ann Hinz, Margita Mandel, Cobi Stein, Claudia Craig, Wolfe Fuhrig.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: See attached for written reports.**

Region reports have been 'skimpy' and the RP need to contact the chapters. It was noted that the national office does not have all the contact info for the chapters. Amelia needs to be contacted on who will be coming to the meetings, and all Chapter reports should go to the Regional Reps to assemble and forward to Amelia who will send them to the Board.

- 1. Database Computer Issue:** (Jerry Schliephake & Dave Fairbrother): Office computer has a 'virus' that they have not been able to identify as yet. (Database computer - They are also looking to upgrade our membership database program, possibly *File Maker* or *Microsoft Sequel*.) **Amelia will look into using an internship to implement the new database.**
- 2. Junior Ambassadors:** (Claudia Craig) In discussing the duties of the Jr. Ambassadors, Claudia thought it would be beneficial for them to attend the Board meetings. She is also encouraging them to write articles for the GAJ. They need to be more visible to the membership/chapters, etc. They also need to know their responsibilities, the benefits and what National can do for them.
- 3. Finance:** (Margret Schrant, Sam Willis, Maria Thompson) Margret talked to the group about the written portfolio reports and the actions of the finance committee. Look into programs that will get the members to 'buy into' such as a "Club of 100", "Heritage Cornerstone", "Remember DANK in your Will", etc. Volunteers to help Margret formulate this: Margita Mandel, Bev Pochatko, Christa Garcia
- 4. Public Relations:** (Margita Mandel – advisors Ernst Ott, Richard Lewis, Erik Wittmann) Margita would like to upgrade the PR packet. She would like to have a contact person in each chapter to work on improving the PR in that particular area. They would announce the activities of the Chapter; what publications for them to contact; i.e. getting the word out! Local chapters would send out their own information. On the national level, they will contact the media on issues such as opening of a new Chapter. Each Chapter should send a list of their local media contacts.
- 5. German Heritage Committee:** (Ann Marie Fuhrig) The word "heritage" is not clearly defined but contains the aspect of what Germans brought with them to this country. DANK could provide information where they can find an overall picture. Dr. Fuhrig proposed two sub-committees:
  1. Focusing on German Americana enlisting the support of Ruth Reichman – Max Kade Institution;
  2. Recent German History - People need to be educated on the history of Germany and that not all Germans were Nazi's in WWII. They would put together documents and have information ready to go. This should start in each Chapter. She will see about obtaining the two-part free videos on "The German Americans" for the Chapters and exhibits that can be

used. Formulate them so that anyone can use them not just in academia. This is a good initiative for DANK and could attract new members.

Erik will approach the Education Committee to see if the posters/exhibits can be funded and to distribute to chapters. ***The Board gave its approval for AnnMarie to go forward with her ideas for the German Heritage Committee.***

6. **Education:** (Christa Garcia) See submitted reports. Schools doing quite well and three have finished the AATG National High School Tests. **Fifty-one students** passed the AATG tests across the three schools – Chicago (**DSS DANK Chicago- 21 of 21 students**), Northern Suburbs(**DSS DANK Arlington- 24 of 36 students**), and Columbus (**German School Columbus – 6 of 7 students**), OH. Twenty-one in Level 3(**DSS DANK Chicago**) and six in Level 4(**German School Columbus**). **Of these 51 students, 14 achieved a test score of 90%+ on the AATG Test. These students will receive the AATG Junior Award on May 2 at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL** Fox Valley School closed; DANK South - no response, Arizona adult program. She did not have info on all the adult programs. She noted that the DANK Chapters do not have the resources to fully support their schools.
7. **German American Journal:** (Darlene Fuchs) Associate Member Page – 1<sup>st</sup> come first serve; Community Service Page – showing what we do for our communities; Would like to do a budget comparison so members can see what happens to their money; Ernst felt that we should have a page or more articles written entirely in German for those who speak the language to help them remain fluent. (This would not be the school page.) Oskar & Atticus is the children's page. Darlene said she would be happy to print any such articles, and asked that a translation accompany them. Limited to 500 words. They do not have the time/staff to do translations.
8. **Web-Site:** (Stephen Fuchs) Web-site is being updated (see report).
9. **Awards Committee:** (Beverly Pochatko, Margaret Potocki, Donna Lippert, Melissa Lesniewski) Discussion ensued on when a Chapter should receive an anniversary recognition plaque. ***A motion to present a Chapter celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries respectively with a plaque from national was made by Erik Wittmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Lippert. Motion carried.***

The Membership Committee Report will be given at the Executive Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.



Beverly A. Pochatko  
National Recording Secretary