



DANK National Executive Board Meeting
DANK HAUS Chicago
March 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order with the roll call at 12:07 PM

Attending: Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Robert Miske, Beverly Pochatko, Edwin Gunther, Fred Leinweber, Rein Lippert, Dave Hinz, Margaret Potocki, Ernst Ott, Darlene Fuchs, Eve Timmerhaus, Eva Timmerhaus and MaryAnn Hinz. *Excused:* NP Wm. Fuchs, R3 Pres. Chris Decker.

Financial & Budget Reports – Robert Miske

Profit & Loss (Jan 1-March 6th): Total of \$41,507 income, total expenses of \$20,380, with a total net income of \$11,026. Under contributions database upgrade received \$3,210. Cleveland will send \$1000 when computer is purchased.

2011 Budget Proposal: Change dues income to \$77,845 and total income of \$111,335; under expenses fundraising deduct \$1000 to \$3000. This brings the total expenses to \$111,335, balancing the budget. Dues income of \$77,845 comes out to 71 new heads of household – comparable to the dues paid of \$75,732 last year. Convention (overnight stay for board members, travel, awards, etc.) has been figured in. Of the \$6000 legal fees budgeted, \$3700 is for the accounting firm and the remainder is attorney's fees. Dues reimbursement \$11,500 – Miske is holding them until Chapters file their financial reports (due Feb 28) so we can file our National Fed Tax returns. (Costs us money for late filing.) Still waiting for five Chapter returns.

After discussion, **Edwin Gunther made the motion to seek out a new accountant in a cost saving measure. 2nd by Dave Hinz. Motion carried.**

A motion to accept the balanced 2011 Budget was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Fred Leinweber. Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda at end of meeting:

1. Change May meeting to live and Dec a teleconference.
2. Dues withholding rational
3. Support of a German radio program via the internet

OLD BUSINESS:

Office Rental/Lease Agreement – The extending of the lease of the current spaces at \$635/month will continue as is, with the understanding that it does not influence or suggest that we accept the position on the part of the Chicago Chapter that neither they own the house nor that we own the house. Dagmar Freiberger said that they are willing to do a long-term lease. **A motion to accept extending the current lease arrangement with the understanding that it does not influence or suggest that we accept the position on the part of the Chicago Chapter that they own the house nor that we own the house was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Donna Lippert. Motion carried.**

DANK Haus Legal update We continue to work with Chapter North on this issue. *Ownership is not the issue, but North's possibility of transferring management. The original intent to spend the money was to clarify the*

501.c.3 / 501.c.4 issues and ended up much more than originally planned. There are the issues of the Trusteeship, Bausteins, and Inter Organizational Agreements, and Quit Claim Deeds that were improperly done. There was intent for National to transfer ownership to North for many years. True – National originally owned the house and issued Bausteins, and set up the Trusteeship. Interestingly North said “they are your Bausteins” then we (National) own the property; but we (National) do not want to own the building and operate it. We sat with North and said “it benefits no one to go to court”. We agree that North has done a great job in managing the Haus. Speaking for this Board, we are willing to sign off that you own the Haus, but you have to give something back to the organization, whether it is free rent, partial rent, or whatever; you have to acknowledge that the National Bylaws stipulate you can not sell this property are honored and your Board signs off on that, and the National Board sign off on that. Why do that? because frankly they have already violated the bylaws once when they transferred the property to a 501.c.3. This is one of the issues that we could push if we wanted to. We met with them last night and they are taking it back to their membership/board on Monday. The moral of the story is that if we can overcome this issue, we can start working as a broad organization and do the things that we need to do; hopefully, the membership who purchased Bausteins and worked tirelessly to build this Haus will see that we are getting something and their work was not in vain. The National Board said last night, that we will not sign anything that acknowledges their ownership unless they agree to some of the conditions. Interestingly last night, Nikki Dombrowski said “we as Chapter North, are the stewards/trustees of the Haus and have done our job well- indicating that national owns the house; and when the subject of the Bausteins was addressed, she said that National issued them, not the Chapter.” If they were issued by National and you are acknowledging that you are the trustees of the Haus, all we are saying is that we want to turn the Haus over to you because you have done such a wonderful job. But, we need some assurance for all the work that national members have done was not for nothing.

It was noted that Chapter North has changed their by-laws over the objection of its members and the older members feel that they are not getting full disclosure. Unfortunately, not enough Chapter members attend their meetings. While the National Board cannot dictate what happens in local chapter activities, unless it violates our bylaws. Their bylaws legally can not be in conflict with the national bylaws.

Ernst Ott also gave this insight into the Bausteine, “the owners are only entitled to get their money back if the building is sold and the money not being reinvested into a new DANK Haus.”

North meets on Monday and our proposal will be presented. They have said they don’t challenge the national authority, but we still want it certified and in writing. If both our boards don’t take a reasonable approach to this, it will destroy the organization.

Education Funds Merger - GATES has formally rejected the proposal to work together. This means that we will not solicit funds via the Journal/renewal forms. Christa Garcia reported “The Board of Directors of the German American Education Fund NFP (501 (c) (3) have agreed to merge with the National DANK Education and School Fund. The have requested the Articles of Incorporation of that Fund in order to start the merger. Articles of Incorporation have not been forwarded to the President of the German American Education Fund. The merger is therefore pending.” We will merge into the DANK group, come up with a new board of directors including bringing in outside individuals.

DANK National School Support & Leadership: The Education Committee was dissolved since they were not working in the manner we established, with a possibility of re-establishing it at a later date. Springfield has a fantastic program for a model to work with. We will rewrite the mission of Education and bring it back to the board.

After some discussion, Beverly Pochatko made a motion to approve the re-constitution of the Education Committee with a new Board, rewriting their purpose and what education is. 2nd by Bob Miske. Motion carried.

Region 1 Resolution to dissolve DANK Regions previously requested by Chapter North was brought up for discussion. Region 1 and members of Chapter North no longer request dissolution of the Regions and the resolution was dropped.

NEW BUSINESS:

Raffle 2011 – the theme will be “German Americans, A Proud Heritage”. It was decided to eliminate the \$1000 grand prize, make the Grand prize a larger TV and or Cash equivalent. The number of printed tickets will be reduced to 12,000 based on previous year’s lack of sales. The drawing will be held at the National Convention. Chapters are encouraged to sell the tickets at their events earning \$1 for every ticket sold.

DANK Booth at Milwaukee and other festivals –Chapter Milwaukee has requested help in their booth in the ‘Cultural Tent’. This is in addition to the volunteers to man the national tent. It was noted that combining the spaces was not an option. DANK National will have a vendor's booth again this year to promote membership. Chapter President Edwin Gunther was asked by VP Wittmann if they would consider covering the cost of the vendor's booth and the liability insurance for national's participation at the fest.

Navy Pier has been confirmed, but we need to find out the details. Eve T. said that she was not aware of this event, and she would not be available to help. There are two tents, side-by-side. Previously Amelia Cotter said she would cover the booth and promote National. Since she now works for North, we need to be sure that she is still volunteering to help us. Eve needs to check with Amelia as to what has been done so far.

Beverly Pochatko brought up other festivals she felt were worth looking into- including the German American Festival in Cleveland June 18-19th at Zentrale Park: perhaps we can help them promote. She is still trying to work with the German Fest (Aug 26-28th) at Oak Grove (Toledo, OH) – can’t sell anything there, but hopefully we can promote DANK. There is also a “Pretzel Festival” in Germantown OH \$75 for a 10 x 10 tent on Sept 24th & 25th, and on in Minster, OH (North of Dayton) Sept 30th-Oct 2nd. These are areas that we can promote membership and Chapters in areas that have a larger German American population.

National Convention

- i. **Update** – Crown Plaza Hotel - Rate of \$99 per room - get reservations early under GAM - Lots of benefits and things to do for delegates and non-delegates who attend.

- ii. **Delegates** – The number of Chapter Delegates is determined by the number of paid members on December 31st of the previous year. Peoria is an inactive Chapter but if they join Springfield as a sub-chapter, that will give them one vote, just as the Laurel Highlands is part of Pittsburgh and they will get one vote.
- iii. **Possible Bus to Convention** – There were discussions on getting a bus to come to the convention, encouraging more people to come, and picking up passengers along the way. This can also be an easy fundraiser for chapters.

iv. **By-Laws Amendments - Article VIII, Paragraph 6**

Present paragraph reads: At all meetings of the National Executive Board all decisions shall be by majority vote, unless specifically herein set forth, provided a quorum of the National Executive Board is present.

Additional text: **Any meeting of the National Board may be held by teleconference and/or video conference provided that all participants are able to fully participate in the teleconference and/or video conference. All decisions rendered shall be legal and binding.**

A motion to support the additional text to Article 8 Paragraph 6 was made by Robert Miske, 2nd by Donna Lippert. A Roll Call vote was taken: 9 Yea, 0 against, no abstentions. Motion carried.

Voting by Proxy: Discussion took place regarding the voting by proxy in any DANK related meeting. **A motion was made to amend our Bylaws that proxy voting, in any way, shape or form is not permitted at any DANK related meeting, was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Edwin Gunther. A roll call vote was taken. 9 Yea, 0 against, no abstentions. Motion carried.**

v. **German of the Year** – After discussion, a motion was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Bob Miske that we seek a German American Man /Woman (or both) of the Year. Motion carried unanimously.

vi. Jr. Ambassadors: No report from that committee. It was determined that the program needs to be reformulated so as to be inclusive of areas beyond Chicago. A suggestion was made to have a Jr. Ambassador in each region; perhaps working with the AATG to hold a contest, and select a candidate from the three regions; give the students a year's membership in DANK, plus a cash award. Do we have time to do this year? Erik Wittmann made a recommendation that we put a hold on the Jr. Ambassador Program and then ask the new re-constituted Education Board to take a look at it. ***A motion to put a hold on the Jr. Ambassador Program and then ask the new re-constituted Education Board to take a look at it, was made by Dave Hinz and seconded by Fred Leinweber.*** The decision was unanimous. It was suggested that the current Jr. Ambassadors represent us at the Navy Pier.

Pitney Bowes Lease (ends July 2011) – Best alternative: Stamps.com. Bev Pochatko brought a trial package from Stamps.com that will be tried out in the office. At this conjecture in time, it appears that this might be the better alternative for our office.

Additional Items to the Agenda:

1. **Dues Reimbursement:** It was discussed and unanimously approved that the national treasurer shall not forward dues reimbursements to the Chapter until the Chapter has submitted their yearly financial report to the National Treasurer. This is imperative since several chapters are continuously late in supplying the information needed to file the federal tax returns causing a late fee to be imposed. (It was duly noted that Chicago North is a 501.c.3 and they file their own taxes.)

2. Member Cobi Stein questioned, via e-mail, regarding the replacing of office personnel without documenting this in a DANK Board Meeting. (Amelia Cotter, the Office Manager, resigned with a two week notice and the Board subsequently learned that Eve Timmerhaus was available. There was a special teleconference meeting of the five elected Board members and the hiring of Eve Timmerhaus was approved.
3. German Radio Station (Edwin Gunther) – A radio announcer wants to go on a national basis via the internet and he hopes that he will get more response to it. He works hard for the German community in Milwaukee area, and he is looking for financial support via DANK. It was recommended that he submit his request in writing. We are willing to listen to what he wants, but we need more information. He could possibly be linked to our national web-site.
4. Date Change: NP Fuchs asked that we have a live meeting in May, rather than a teleconference, and make the December meeting the teleconference. After much discussion, a motion to change the May 19th teleconference meeting to a live meeting on June 24-26th by Bob Miske, 2nd by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried.
5. Nominating Committee is the Region Presidents. Donna Lippert was appointed the coordinator.

Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Donna Lippert, 2nd by Rein Lippert.
Meeting adjourned at 3:17 PM

Respectfully submitted



Beverly A. Pochatko
National Recording Secretary



National Executive Board Meeting March 12, 2011

MOTIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN – Committee Mtg.

- A motion to accept the Investment report as presented by Donna Lippert, 2nd by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried.
- Need to get interns with background in Sales & Marketing to help recruit Associate Members.
- The Regional Presidents need to address the issues of inactive chapters; either become a sub-chapter, initiate a membership drive; or become national members; reach out to chapters not within our Chapter guidelines and help to come to a decision.
- Everyone was asked to visit DANK.org/Beta to review the new site and let Stephen know of changes/corrections before it goes public.
- Executive Board needs to contact all chapters and let them know why we need chapter information and contacts. It is to help them to acquire new members and build an interest in their chapters. Bev will get the info to the elected board.

MOTIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN – Executive Board Mtg.

- Edwin Gunther made the motion to seek out a new accountant in a cost saving measure. 2nd by Dave Hinz. Motion carried.
- A motion to accept the balanced 2011 Budget was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Fred Leinweber. Motion carried.
- A motion to accept extending the current lease arrangement with the understanding that it does not influence or suggest that we accept the position on the part of the Chicago Chapter that they own the house nor that we own the house was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Donna Lippert. Motion carried.
- After some discussion, Beverly Pochatko made a motion to approve the re-constitution of the Education Committee with a new Board, rewriting their purpose and what education is. 2nd by Bob Miske. Motion carried.
- By-Laws Amendments - Article VIII, Paragraph 6
Present paragraph reads: At all meetings of the National Executive Board all decisions shall be by majority vote, unless specifically herein set forth, provided a quorum of the National Executive Board is present.
Additional text: Any meeting of the National Board may be held by teleconference and/or video conference provided that all participants are able to fully participate in the teleconference and/or video conference. All decisions rendered shall be legal and binding.
A motion to support the additional text to Article 8 Paragraph 6 was made by Robert Miske, 2nd by Donna Lippert. A Roll Call vote was taken: 9 Yea, 0 against, no abstentions. Motion carried.
- A motion was made to amend our Bylaws to state that proxy voting, in any way, shape or form is not permitted at any DANK related meeting, was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Edwin Gunther. A roll call vote was taken. 9 Yea, 0 against, no abstentions. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Beverly Pochatko, 2nd by Bob Miske that we seek a German American Man /Woman (or both) of the Year. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion to put a hold on the Jr. Ambassador Program and then ask the new re-constituted Education Board to take a look at it was made by Dave Hinz and seconded by Fred Leinweber. The decision was unanimous.
- Dues Reimbursement: It was discussed and unanimously approved that the national treasurer shall not forward dues reimbursements to the Chapter until the Chapter has submitted their yearly financial report to the National Treasurer.
- A motion to change the May 19th teleconference meeting to a live meeting on June 24-26th by Bob Miske, 2nd by Edwin Gunther. Motion carried.