

**DANK National Executive Board
Committees Mtg. – 10:00 AM
Saturday, March 14, 2009**

Present: NP Bill Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert and Bev Pochatko. Bob Miske, Dagmar Freiburger, Rein Lippert, Dave Hinz, Margaret Potocki, Eva Timmerhaus, Amelia Cotter.,
Excused: Maria Thompson **Guests:** Dave Fairbrother, Christine Walthier, Martin Walthier, Christa Garcia, AnnMarie Fuhrig, Christel Miske, MaryAnn Hinz, Darlene Fuchs, Stephen Fuchs, Rayyan Yassim, AM Fuhrig's houseguest from Lebanon.

Travel: (Erik Wittmann) Chapters and National have the opportunity to make money off the program. What write-ups provided us by the professional travel planners is not really enticing to anyone. They need to get eye-catching fliers. We need feedback from the Chapters as what they like or dislike about the programs being offered. The trips are discounted for DANK members. For every 25 trips sold, you get a free trip and that 26th ticket is money that goes to the organization. If chapters have trips going on their own, they should get the info to National. Some of the trips listed in Bert's Mayflower Tours are available, however DANK will still get the benefits.

Marketing and Merchandise: (Erik Wittmann) We have started with Nikki Dombrowski as the Chair and are developing product lines. Amelia has started a spreadsheet on products that are available. (Polo shirts can be personalized to the individual Chapters....get Amelia the sizes needed and the money and the order will be shipped to you.) We are looking at various items such as cookbooks, pins, etc. We would like to see all the Chapters wear the polo shirts identifying their location (Erie, Pittsburgh, South, etc) all the same color, etc.. The Chapters can send the supplier info etc. and products available to Chicago and National will act as the clearing house. Amelia is working on an Inventory Program that will be beneficial to us.

Office and Tech Report: *Amelia Cotter – Office update* – Working on programs, Chapter spreadsheets. Inventory lists, received 5 memberships on-line. Summer intern program – would like to bring in two interns this summer (see attachment) to help with the things that she and Eva don't always have the time to dedicate to doing - grant requests, etc. It is at little to no cost to us. This will be discussed at the Executive Board Mtg. this afternoon. Amelia is working on an Office Handbook listing all the daily tasks and how to do them. Eva continues to work in the office three days a week.

Dave Fairbrother reported that he worked on the copier this morning. We may need to look at a smaller machine if it continues to give us trouble. We really don't need the size currently in the office.

Membership: (Erik Wittmann) See Membership report – General membership – trying to strengthen Chapters having difficulties, and starting new chapters is not an easy process and naturally require more time and funding. Using Pittsburgh as the 'base' I am utilizing the subchapter concept for Mason-Dixon Chapter (now has 50 members) which is south of Pittsburgh, and I hope to get them on their own by next January. The newest one is the Laurel Highlands 'Chapter' that is north of the city. I have been talking with a number of groups including Milwaukee (Charlevoix) who are looking into this concept beyond their normal

territory. Syracuse, NY is another possibility and thanks to the National Board we now have a Membership Budget to work with. We are putting ads into German Life to see if we can generate interest in starting Chapters elsewhere. There is a lot of work to be done but the potential is there for DANK to grow. The Chapters develop due to specific interests Columbus – education; Syracuse – education is driving force; Charlevoix is interested in the cultural aspects – fests etc.

Working with the current database, Dave Fairbrother reported that we can't identify our subchapters as such. We can't do it now, however we can easily assign a currently unused number – or make the sub-chapter 158 or 258 (with Pittsburgh 58) as the base. The current database is ancient and would be costly to get professional assistance to convert it. Can't do anything right now, but will consider as a project for next year...something to consider at convention.

School Committee Report: AnnMarie Fuhrig – The Schulleriterinnen Committee met twice prior to this meeting with NP Fuchs to work out issues with teacher contracts. All DANK Chapters should have a common interest in education and should be a main focus for DANK. For more commonality – testing begins in one month. DANK Chapter Chicago will receive the coveted “Pasch Award” (Partner School Award) from the German Consulate for a high degree of excellence in the form of a placard hopefully displayed in a prominent place. The Milwaukee German Immersion School (a public school) will also receive the same award in April from the German Ambassador. Our schools are working toward meeting the qualifications for recognition via oral and written testing on April 25th. DANK Chicago has been named the Pruefungszentrum (testing center) for the Zfa tests for all schools. Additionally, two students (aged 14 & 16) are being recognized by the German Consulate. (See attached proposal). An Awards ceremony will be held in May at the DANK Haus in Chicago by the Northern Illinois AATG. NP Fuchs recommended that the Schools Committee approach the DANK Education Fund Committee. Erik Wittmann said many people want to ‘just learn German’ and it would help if the committee could come up with a program for starting Adult German Language Classes. (Pittsburgh offers adult classes at \$60 for non-DANK member and \$30 for DANK member.) This is often a request when starting new chapters.

DANK Education Fund: Only two people present from the Committee. We received a copy of the Bylaws and Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert nor has Melissa Lesniewski seen them.

Newspaper: Darlene Fuchs - Currently we are running a 16 page paper. We have so many articles and submissions coming in; we need to look at increasing the size of the paper to 20 pages. (See attached report) We would like to get more ‘local’ ads from Chapters to help cover costs. Chapters receive 50% off their ads. (See attached rate sheet)

DANK Credit Card (Visa): Darlene Fuchs - Have new design requested – the Brandenburg Gate in addition to the Neuschwanstein design. Application is on line, but printed one will be available. For every credit card that is applied for and used ‘just once’ – DANK gets a \$50 check into their bank account. We get revenue on every purchase thereafter. The rates are good as well as the benefits to the card holder. You do not have to be a DANK member to get the card and we still benefit.

Web-site Update: Stephen Fuchs – Updated about a month ago. (See attached report) We have seen a modest increase over last year. People are finding this to be a great place to ‘visit’ and get the information they are seeking. Would like to see an increase in the ‘Forum’s activity’. There will be directions in the next GAJ as how to become active in the forum. Stephen has done a great job of creating and maintaining the web-site at his own expense. Erik suggested that we budget money to maintain the web-site in an acceptable fashion. This will be discussed further in the Executive Board Meeting this afternoon.

DANK Golden Anniversary Raffle: There was discussion on the cost of the tickets and how can we sell more. We have decided on \$5 tickets, with \$2500 grand prize. Heads-of-household will get 2 tickets by June. There are possible other prizes that are being considered. Examples: If a Chapter sells the tickets at a special event, they will get 20% of the sales, thus making money for the Chapter. Looking at donated prizes, we will provide an ad in the GAJ for prize value less than \$700 value an $\frac{1}{8}$ page ad in the GAJ; under \$1000, $\frac{1}{4}$ page ad; more than \$2000 value – $\frac{1}{2}$ page ad plus an ad on our web-site. More will be coming. We should have an attractive poster to use for selling tickets at special events.

50th Anniversary – Donna Lippert & Bill Fuchs - have come up with a 50th Anniversary pin It will be a $1\frac{1}{8}$ " pin in black and gold cloisonné. It will have 50th Anniversary on the pin to celebrate this milestone. They will cost us \$1.70 each. Sell for \$5/pin to individuals, \$3.50 to Chapters requesting 50 or more pins. We will mail them to individuals for \$7.50 including S & H.



We need to have a discussion regarding the Membership pins currently distributed by DANK Milwaukee.

National Convention: Christine Walthier – Convention will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center on November 6-8th, 2009. Rooms are reserved at the holiday Inn at a cost of \$99/night. Suggested to have arrival on Thursday night, motivational mtgs. on Friday on how to get things done in the Chapters, Town Hall meeting and the business meeting on Saturday. Ad forms will be going out soon to the Chapters. We need to entice more DANK members to attend. There is an issue regarding the letterhead and the logo (Vector graphic in .gif form) and it will be available to the Convention Committee by Monday, March 16th.

Miss DANK Contest is somewhat on hold at this time.

Seminars: The workshops are expected to be attended by all the delegates. There will be workshops for Chapters with schools.

The meeting closed at 12:05 PM for lunch break.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Beverly A. Pochatko'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Beverly A. Pochatko
National Recording Secretary