

**DANK National Executive Board Mtg.**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Saturday, March 14, 2009**

**Roll Call:** William Fuchs, Erik Wittmann, Donna Lippert, Beverly Pochatko, Bob Miske, Dagmar Freiburger, Rein Lippert, Dave Hinz, Margaret Potocki, Amelia Cotter and Eva Timmerhaus. Guests: Christel Miske, Anne Marie Fuhrig, Christa Garcia, Darlene Fuchs, Stephen Fuchs, Excused: Maria Thompson, Chris Decker

**Additions:**

- National Council of the Steuben Society of America has their Founder's Day on May 17<sup>th</sup>. They sent a request that DANK place an ad in their program. A ½ page was approved at \$70. Ad should contain our web-site and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo on it.
- Received a renewal notice for a subscription to the New Yorker Staatzeitung \$99.50/year or \$159.50/2 years. After discussion, it was decided to obtain more info from them to see if we can work out a deal with them...web-site etc.
- Amelia Cotter will be off March 27<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> and Eva will be covering the office. She will also be gone July 8<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be unpaid leave. This will be worked out with Eva to cover the office.

**Minutes** were previously approved by the Board on Feb 2, 2009

**Financial Secretary Report:** Refer to attachments. All categories have been corrected to enable us to see a clear view of our financial picture. We are in an adjustment period since we started collecting dues earlier – the end of 2008. We don't want to raise dues and we need to find more means of funding such as merchandising and our new credit card. We lost about \$17,000 in our investment account. *Regional Presidents need to get Chapters to follow-up on unpaid dues. Chapters can collect dues, but checks should not be cashed but forwarded directly to Chicago in a timely manner. Chapter checks can be forwarded in case of cash payments by members.*

**Motion to accept the Financial Report: Erik Wittmann, Seconded: Donna Lippert. Motion carried.**

**The School Committee** will need to apply to the DANK Education School Fund regarding their proposal of funding. Erik and Donna will work on getting their request processed with the other Education Fund Board members. The School Committee would like to meet with members of GATES, the DANK Education School Fund and the German Education Fund to discuss streamlining. the proposal needs to be done

**Raffle:** We need to apply for our own 'Game of Chance' license. As it stands now, it is in Chicago North's name and EIN. This will be taken care of ASAP.

**Payroll:** DANK needs to consider using "Paycheck" to cover the employees. This company will write the checks, take care of the taxes etc. This takes the burden of keeping track of and paying the various employee taxes and deductions off the organization's treasurer.

**A motion was made by Donna Lippert to contact "Paycheck" to take on this aspect of our financial responsibility. Seconded by Rein Lippert. Motion carried.**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

- **Establishment of an Endowment Fund (Erik Wittmann)**
- **Utilizing an Intern Program for office assistance (Amelia Cotter)**

**Membership:** Erik Wittmann -

**Addition Erik Wittmann – Endowment Fund to allow people to contribute resources with a non-profit ability**

**Chapter Problems & Updates – Erik Wittmann**

**Peoria** everything seemed to be going well. The Chapter was basically defunct. The Chapter is now reviving under President Katie Viebach who said the Chapter needs resources. It was discovered that year's ago the Chapter's money was put into a CD in the name of members, rather than the organization, two of whom (Oswald Schlack and Rudolf Heusuk) are still living. Now that the CD (in the financial secretary's name and his personal social security number) is coming up on Apr 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1<sup>st</sup> they were just going to turn the money over (\$9050) however, now Mr. Schlack is putting stipulations on it. This needs to be resolved or put into the hands of an attorney which could provide serious consequences for the gentleman in question.

**Indianapolis** currently has 15 members and content with their status quo. Others would like to get back on track...want to revitalize the Chapter with a new Board. Have people willing to serve but waiting for April meeting to confirm. They want the Chapter to grow and getting new members on the Board is just the first step.

**Cleveland** was dormant, had elections last month with new slate of officers. Stefan Pigler is their new President; Linda Voit is the Secretary/Treasurer. We will look into what we can do to help them.

**Columbus** – Biggest issue is how to get funding for their education program. They want to create a 501c3 to help fund their school. It will be separate from the Chapter and School. We need to help new Chapters – dues were paid in July, then received renewal notices for January 2009.

***Motion to implement a policy that any time a new chapter is formed in a calendar year, (chartered from June 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year), the dues they paid will be considered paid for the next year, was made by Erik Wittmann, seconded by Dagmar Freiberger. Motion carried.***

**Chapter standings** – Review list of Paid members, delegate lists, listing of all Chapters  
Need to ask the chapters “do you want to reinvigorate or become a sub-chapter to salvage these chapters” (Beloit/Janesville, New Castle, and Philadelphia). Some Chapters have not submitted updated information on members, officers, etc. Regional Presidents need to step up and help get this info back to National. We need to find a better way to communicate with the Chapters to get this info. There is a need to educate people at our National Convention.

We are still working on how to extract this info into a database to download onto the Calendar and the web-site. Currently, all info is now hand loaded. Need to get Chapters to get the data to the national office.

**Chapter Motivating Ideas:**

1. Provide incentives (stars) for increasing membership by 10%
2. Chapter activities will increase incentives
3. Chapters will be balanced so everyone is on the same level.
4. Chapters need to decide what is important to them.
  - a. Provide a convention workshop to decide the incentives (stars)

**Region Reports:** See attachment

- Region Meetings – 1 – May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2 – April 26<sup>th</sup>  
3 – Date to be announced – hoping to get Cleveland to host it.

**Reimbursement Policy:** Policy has had some misunderstandings, therefore after discussion, it was determined that each region would have a \$200 deductible payable to National due annually on January 1<sup>st</sup>. To make this fair and equitable this will over-ride the statement “if travel is more than 100 miles one-way”...to “if travel is to attend national meeting, the expenses will be borne by the National Board, funded by this deductible.” When attending to the affairs of the Region, then the rep will be reimbursed by the Regional Treasurer.

*A motion by Erik Wittmann to amend the Reimbursement Policy to request \$200 from each Region starting this fiscal year to cover expenses of the Regional Representatives to attend a National Meeting, removing the specification “if travel is more than 150 miles one-way”. Travel will be paid at \$0.37/mile without mileage restrictions. All Reps will send their expenses for national meetings to the National Treasurer for reimbursement. This is not a fee, but a deductible. This amendment will be reviewed within three years. Seconded by Bob Miske. A roll call vote was taken. All voted in favor of this motion.*

**DANK HAUS UPDATE:** Open House for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - lot of activities for the Gallery. Need to update the standing between National and North legally so everything is clarified. The Haus and the Chapter’s banking accounts are kept separate. They have had an audit; still working on the city regarding the parking lot.

**Pitney Bowes Update:** It’s not as easy an issue to work on and requires time. It would help if we had more people involved on these committees. There is a possibility of sharing the machine with two separate accounts with north to cut costs.

**Associate Members...**stagnated – nothing decided since our last teleconference mtg. Bill sent detailed letter to Mr. Ott and Mr. Arp.... They requested a budget for some things that we don’t even know. They are not following up with things as requested by the Board. Christa Garcia said she was willing to help on the Committee. German American Day is getting started, but we need to start earlier.

**DANK PR Brochure:** Due to overwork by Board members, nothing has been done yet. We need to come up with a two items – brochure and membership application. Some have mentioned that we list us as German-Americans but we need to stress Germanic American descent. This is important as some are very sensitive to this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Milwaukee German Fest Parade in July (Cobi Stein)** Erich Wittmann would like to see all regions participating. Cobi Stein will coordinate as many groups as possible to march together led by their Chapter flags. She too, would like to see all Regions participating. She needs to know by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget:** A copy of the proposed budget was reviewed by the Exec. Board. We need to stress the need to the Chapters to increase their membership. A budget for web-site maintenance of \$1200/year and \$2,000 was budgeted this year for membership development. Items we need to watch are newspaper advertising and membership dues, raffle and the credit cards. We have allowed for inflation and should be able to come out okay.

***A motion to accept the Budget for 2009 was made by Bob Miske, seconded by Erik Wittmann. Motion carried.***

**Dues Reimbursement:** Chapters were sent their dues reimbursements in February for the previous year. The dues reimbursements will be issued annually in February for the previous fiscal year. *Note: In the Fall of Sept 2008, the Chapters did receive a check and the balance through Dec was just mailed out.*

**Intern Program** (Amelia Cotter) See attachment. ***Motion to support the Intern program presented by Erik Wittmann. Seconded by Bob Miske. Motion carried.***

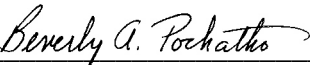
**Membership Pins:** Milwaukee has made the membership pins and the anniversary pins in the past. Chapters feel that they have been rather costly. We don't want to harm the Milwaukee Chapter...can we affordably buy out their inventory? They paid \$1.93 originally. This would have to be approved by Milwaukee's Board. We would like to buy the pins from you at your cost, and then the pins would be 'centralized' from the office by Amelia. We want to redesign the pin and this way we will be ready to implement them in the future without penalizing Chapter Milwaukee. Should have an answer next month after their chapter meeting.

**Endowment Fund:** Erik Wittmann He would like to establish an Endowment Fund for the on-going existence of the German culture. Raising money on a short term basis...this will be discussed in tomorrow morning's meeting. Need to set up some type of funding system...for DANK National, Newspaper, and Education. Everyone felt this is a good idea.

**Motion** to adjourn by Erik Wittmann, seconded by Donna Lippert.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by

  
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Beverly A. Pochatko  
National Recording Secretary